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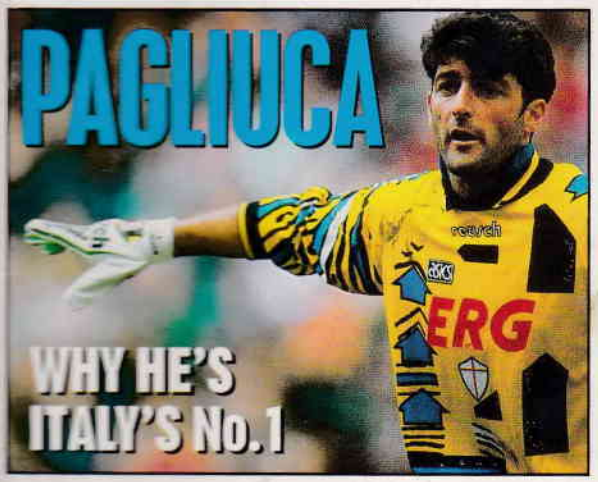
AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ENGLAND'S RISING STAR



AFRICAN NATIONS CUP SPECIAL REPORT FROM TUNISIA

WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

MOROCCO
NIGERIA
NORWAY

REP. OF IRELAND
ROMANIA
RUSSIA

Latest international results, line-ups and tables

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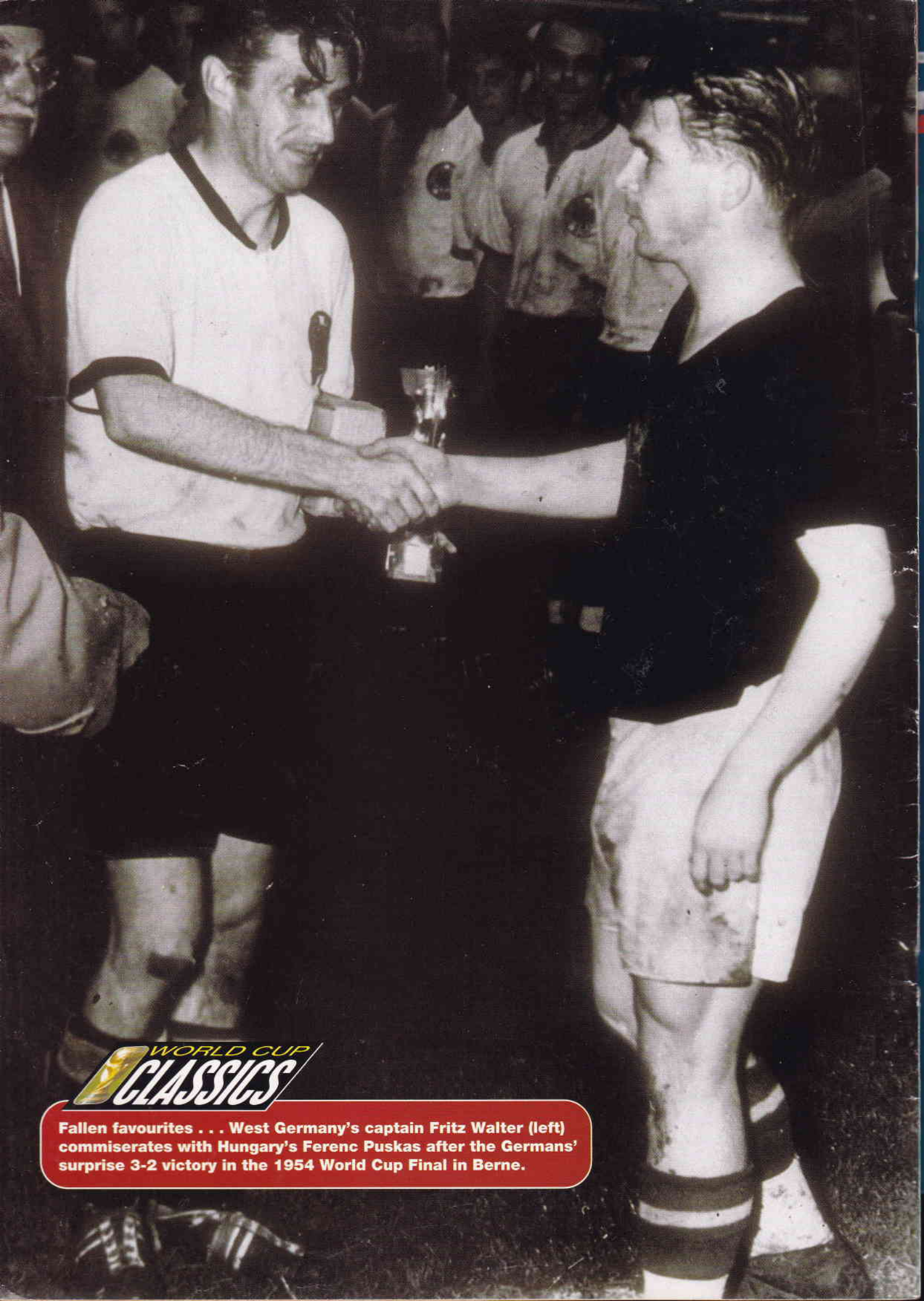

WORLD CUP CLASSICS

Fallen favourites . . . West Germany's captain Fritz Walter (left) commiserates with Hungary's Ferenc Puskas after the Germans' surprise 3-2 victory in the 1954 World Cup Final in Berne.

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AFRICAN

BY MARK GLEESON

Amu

NIGERIA, in the end, achieved what most had expected them to do in winning the African Nations Cup, just two months ahead of their first appearance in the World Cup finals.

It was the sheer strength of their team that steam-rolled over the opposition and ended a run of four appearances in the final without success.

The tournament served to confirm that Nigeria are the continent's footballing power, now at serior level too, to

The Eagles have landed . . . Nigeria skipper Stephen Keshi lifts the African Nations Cup (above).

Celebration time . . . goalkeeper Peter Rufai and Keshi lead the lap of honour (above right).

10 by 10 . . . Zambia's Evans Sakala challenges Nigeria's Austin Okocha for possession (right).

NATIONS CUP TUNISIA 1994

add to years of domination at the junior level. Despite a few hiccups here and there, there was little to fault the awesome forward power of a Nigerian side who changed their make-up with every game in the two-week competition.

When they finally settled on the right combination, all but three of the 22-man squad had played some part in the event. Such is the talent at their disposal that the slightest under par performance almost certainly guarantees losing your place to someone eagerly waiting in the wings.

Emmanuel Amunike, for example, did not play at all until the final, yet burst through to score twice as Nigeria ended the fairytale run of Zambia 2-1 in the decider.

He will probably go to the US as the second-choice striker behind Rachidi Yekini, who again ended as the tournament's leading goalscorer with five.

Nigeria were about the only consistent factor in

fires the ammo

Zambia so close to a dream

a tournament which delivered a whole series of shocks. First the early elimination of hosts Tunisia by Mali; then Egypt finishing above Nigeria in their opening-round group and the rise and rise of Zambia, just one year after the cruel air disaster, which necessitated the rebuilding of their team.

Zambia, with some good fortune of the draw it must be added, made it all the way to the final to again win the hearts of African football.

They struggled with the superior Nigerians for 90 minutes of a pulsating final, one of the best seen in the 19 editions of the Nations Cup.

But the real deciding matches came in the quarter-final and the semi-finals. First it was defending champions Ivory Coast who grabbed a late winner to send Ghana home early with a 2-1 win in their quarter-final match.

And then they in turn lost to Nigeria in the semi-finals, in a penalty shoot-out, after another thrillingly attacking game that produced four goals in the opening 40 minutes.

Some 44 goals were scored in total during the tournament, the second highly tally ever in the Nations Cup finals, and 10 more than the drab event in Senegal two years previously.

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A: A nightmare start for the hosts and one of the biggest upsets in the competition's history as Tunisia went down 2-0 to Mali.

The Malians did not put up an impressive showing but a soft goal for Fernand Coulibaly after 25 minutes and then a thundering free-kick from Sidibe Modibe 10 minutes later had Tunisia completely perplexed. There could have been even more goals near the end as the home team completely fell apart.

Coach Youssef Zouaoui was fired immediately and replaced by Faouzi Benzerti, coach of League champions Esperance.

Zaire then beat the Malians 1-0 with Lemba Espera Basaula scoring just after half-time. Jean-Claude Mukanya, from Belgian club Lommel, proved outstanding in the midfield.

So Mali qualified despite the defeat, and left Tunisia needing to beat Zaire by two goals in the final group match.

A huge crowd at the El Menzah Stadium endured a heart-stopping first half as Tunisia went close on numerous occasions but eventually they needed a penalty to take the lead. Faouzi Rouissi scored, but their dreams were destroyed early in the second half, when Ngoy Nsumbu equalised. So Zaire and Mali went through.

GROUP B: After only 18 minutes, Nigeria's key player, Rachidi Yekini, made his entrance scoring the first goal against Gabon.

There were two more (from Mutiu Adepoju and Yekini again) as the tournament debutants had little to offer against a vastly more experienced team.

Egypt then went one better than Nigeria and scored four against the hapless Gabonese. Ayman Mansour scored after only 22 seconds, a record for African soccer, Fawzi El Gamal and Bashir Samad (two) added the others.

That meant Egypt and Nigeria ambled through a 0-0 draw in the final group match, and Egypt finished top on goal difference.

GROUP C: Defending champions Ivory Coast made the perfect start to the tournament with a 4-0 win over newcomers Sierra Leone.

Joel Tiehi's hat-trick was the first in the tournament for 20 years. Alain Gouamene was back in goal and stretched his run of clean sheets to six.

Zambia made a sluggish entrance but the goalless draw against Sierra Leone virtually assured them a quarter-final place.

They confirmed this with a surprise 1-0 win over the Ivorians with Kenneth Malitoli scoring one minute after going on as a substitute.

Gouamene lost his streak after 619 minutes and the Ivorians finished second behind Zambia.

GROUP D: Ghana started poorly against Guinea, but a late goal, hammered home from a free-kick by Charles Akunnor, gave them a 1-0 win.

Guinea look set for a comeback against Senegal, scoring on half-time through captain Aboubacar Camara. But two quick goals after the interval turned the game around and Guinea went out.

Momath Gueye's penalty and Athanas Tendeng's 50th-minute goal put Senegal ahead, and it stayed that way when Camara's last-minute penalty was saved.

With both teams through, Ghana and Senegal played out a dull encounter, livened only by a late goal by Prince Polley Opoku that put the Black Stars top of the group.

1994 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP . . . all the details from Tunisia

GROUP A

Tunis — March 26
TUNISIA 0
MALI 2 (Coulibaly 25, M Sidibe 35).
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** LK Chong (Mau)
Tunisia: Ol Ouaer — Thabet, Hichri, Okbi, Mizouri, Mahjoubi, Gharbi (Souayeh 36), A Sellimi, Bouzaene, F Rouissi, Hamrouni (Tlemeani 46).
Mali: Farota — Moussa Keita, Souleymane Sangare, A. Traore, M Sidibe, Diabbo, S Traore (H Sangare 81), Sekou Sangare, Diop, B. Toure (Ndiaye 81), Coulibaly.

Tunis — March 28
MALI 0
ZAIRE 1 (Basaula 48).
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** A Bujsaim (UAE)
Mali: Farota — Moussa Keita. Souleymane Sangare, A Traore, M Sidibe, Diallo, Diop, Sekou Sangare, B. Toure, Ndiaye (S Traore 60), Coulibaly.
Zaire: Bulayima, Ngombo, Danga, Lokose, Makengo, Mukanya, Basaula, Ndinga, K Kasango, Mateso, Lukaku.

Tunis — March 30
TUNISIA 1 (F Rouissi 43 pen)
ZAIRE 1 (Nsumbu 55).
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** J.Al Sharif (Syr)
Tunisia: El Ouaer — Thabet, Okbi, Mizouri, Mahjoubi, A Sellimi, S Sellimi, Souayeh (Bouzaene 76), F Roussi, Hamrouni, Tlemcani (Limam 6).
Zaire: Bulayima — Ngombo, Nzau, Lokose, Lembi, Mukanya (Lukima 78), Basaula, Ndinga, K Kasango, Ekakla (Nsumbu 46), Lukaku.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZAIRE	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
MALI	2	1	0	1	2	1	2
Tunisia	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

GROUP B

Tunis — March 26
GABON 0
NIGERIA 3 (Yekini 18, 88, Adepoju 72).
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** M Bahar (Mor)
Gabon: Mendome — Mombo, Kassa Ngoma, Aubame, Ndong-Nze, Ondo, Ndong, Amegasse, Nyangala (Mackaya 70), Nzamba, Manon.
Nigeria: Rufai — Eguavon, Iroha, Keshi (Okafor 75), Oktechukwu, Oliha, Okocha (Adepoju), Oliseh, Siasia, Amokachi, Yekini.

Tunis — March 28
EGYPT 4 (A Mansou 1, El Gamal 22, Abdel Samad 55, 69)
GABON 0.
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** C. Massembe (Uga)
Egypt: Shoubier — H. Ramzy (Kassem 68), Gamal, Fathi, El Gamal, T Mansour, El Kass (Abdelal 46), Rayan, Al Saghir, Abdel Samad, A Mansour.
Gabon: Mendome — Mombo, Kassa Ngoma, Aubame, Ndong-Nze (Retoa 68), Ondo, Ndong, Amegasse (Moutsinga 59), Ogandaga, Nzamba, Mackaya.

Tunis — March 30
EGYPT 0
NIGERIA 0.
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** LK Chong (Mau)
Egypt: Shoubier — Kassem, Gamal, Fathi, El Gamal, T. Mansour, El Kass (Abdelal 64), Rayan, Al Sahir, Abdel Sama, A Mansour (Ramadhan 83).
Nigeria: Rufai — Eguaevon, Iroha, Okafor, Okechukwu, Oliha, Adepju (Okocha 65), Oliseh, Siasia, Amokachi, Yekini (Ikpeba 70).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
EGYPT	2	1	1	0	4	0	3
Gabon	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

GROUP C

Sousse — March 27
IVORY COAST 4 (Tiehi 19, 63, 70, Guel 35)
SIERRA LEONE 0.
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** JA Sharif (Syria)
Ivory Coast: Gouamene — Hobou, Fallet, Abou, Dao, Sie, Sibi Badra, Guel, Maguy, Bassole (Traore 88), Tiehi (Yao 79).
Sierra Leone: Marah — Mohamed Kanu, Mansaray, A Kamara, A Sessay, Sama, L Conteh (Kallon 67), Koroma, A Conteh, Allen (Musu Kanu 56), J Gbassay Sessay.

Sousse — March 29
SIERRA LEONE 0
ZAMBIA 0.
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** O Yengo (Con)
Sierra Leone: Marah — Mohamed Kanu, Mansaray, A Kamara, Bangoura (King 46), Kallon, Sama, Musa Kanu, A Kanu (George 58), Karim, J Gbassay Sessay.
Zambia: Phiri, Chongo, Litana, Lungu (Sakala 60), Chiyangi, Sichokolo, Chilumba (Saileti 78), Joel Bwalya, Jonson Bwalya, K Bwalya, Malitoli.

Sousse — March 31
IVORY COAST 0
ZAMBIA 1 (Malitoli 79).
HT: 0-0. **Att:**6,000. **Ref:** P Mathabela (SA)
Ivory Coast: Gouamene — Hobou, Fallet, Abou Dao, Sie, Sidi Badra (Traore 82), Guel, Maguy, Yago (Aka Kouame 46), Tiehi.
Zambia: Phiri — Chongo, Litana, Mulenga, Ciyangi, Sichokolo, Chilumba (Malitoli 78), Sakala, Jonson Bwalya (Msasela 62), K Bwalya, Saileti.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZAMBIA	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
IVORY COAST	2	1	0	1	4	1	2
Sierra Leone	2	0	1	1	0	4	1

GROUP D

Sousse — March 27
GHANA 1 (Akunnor 87)
GUINEA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** P Mathebela (SA)
Ghana: Ansah — Amankwa, Frimpong Manso, Ampeah, A Duah, Johnson (Whyte 18), Lamptey, Acheampong, Akunnor, Abedi Pele, K Ayew.
Guinea: Diallo — Bangoura, Mohamed Ofei Sylla, E Sylla, M Soumah, O Camara, Drame, Sow, Mohamed Sylla, Oulare, A Camara.

Sousse — March 29
GUINEA 1 (A Camara 44)
SENEGAL 2 (Gueye 46 pen, Tendeng 50).
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** H Mousa (Egypt)
Guinea: Diallo — Bangoura, Mohamed Ofei Sylla, E Sylla, M Soumah, O Camara (S Soumah 64), Drame, Sow, Thiam, Oulare, A Camara.
Senegal: Seck — Tambedou, Mendy, M Diagne, L Cisse, Gueye, Faye (Mamdou Diallo 52), M Camara, Male, Tendeng, Sane.

Sousse — March 31
GHANA 1 (Opoku 88)
SENEGAL 0.
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** A Boujsalm (UAE)
Ghana: Ansah — Amankwah, Whyte, Frimpong Manso, Baffoe, Ampeah, Lamptey (Arthur 81), Akunnor, Abedi Pele, K Ayew (Polley Opouku 66), Yeboah.
Senegal: P Ndiaye — Tambedou, Mendy, Mamadou Marieme Diallo, Sagna (Male 46), Gassama, Mamadou Diallo, Tendeng, Alassane Dione, M Diarra, Sane (Mangane 70).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GHANA	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
SENEGAL	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Guinea	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

QUARTER-FINALS

Tunis — April 2
NIGERIA 2 (Yekini 51, 71)
ZAIRE 0.
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** LK Chong (Mau)
Nigeria: Rufai — Eguavoen, Iroha, Okafor, Okechukwu, Oliha, George Oliseh (Ugbade 79), Ekolu (Adepoju 61), Amokachi, Yekini.
Zaire: Tambwe — Ngombo, Nzau, Danda, Lokose, Lukima, K Kasango, Ndinga, Basaula, Nsimba (Nsumbu 46), Lukaku (M Kasango 71).

Tunis — April 2
EGYPT 0
MALI 1 (S Traore 64).
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** C. Massembe (Uga)
Egypt: Shoubier — Kassem, Gamal, Fathi, El Gamal, T Mansour, El Kass, Rayan, Al Saghir, Abdel Samad (Ramadhan 62), A Mansour.
Mali: Farota — Moussa Keita, Guindo, Sekou Sangare, M Sidibe, A Traore, I Toure (B Traore 80), Soumano, Diallo, S Traore (H Sangare 88), Coulibaly.

Sousse — April 3
SENEGAL 0
ZAMBIA 1 (Sakala 38)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** JA Sharif (Syria)
Senegal: Seck — Diagne, Mendy, Gassama (Tambedou 53), L Cisse, Camara, Male, Faye, Tendeng (Mamadou Diallo 46),A Traore, Sane.
Zambia: Phiri — Chongo, Litana, Lungu, Chiyangi, Siehokolo (M Malitoli 65), Sakala, Jonson Bwalya (Chiluba 83), K Bwalya, Saileti, K Malitoli.

Sousse — April 3
IVORY COAST 2 (Tiehi 30, Traore 81)
GHANA 1 (Akunnor 77).
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** A. Bujsaim (UAE)
Ivory Coast: Gouamene — Aka Kouame, Fallet, Abouo, Dao, Sie, Guel, Maguy, Bassole, Traore, Tiehi (Y Amani 63).
Ghana: Ansah — Amankwah, Whyte, Frimpong Manso (Dodoo 46), Baffaoe, Duah, Acheampong, Akunnor, Abedi Pele, Prince Polley Opuku, Yeboah.

SEMI-FINALS

Tunis — April 6
IVORY COAST 2 (Bassole 19, 31)
NIGERIA 2 (Iroha 26, Yekini 40).
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** A Bujsaim (UAE).
Nigeria won 4-2 on pens
Ivory Coast: Gouamene — Aka Kouame, Fallet, Abouo, Dao, Sie, Guel, Maguy, Bassole, Traore (Ouattara 44), Tiehi (Y Amaui 57).
Nigeria: Rufai — Semitoje (Okafor 74), Iroha, Keshi (Ugbade 102), Okechukwu, Oliseh, George, Okocha, Siasia, Amokachi, Yekini.

Tunis — April 6
MALI 0
ZAMBIA 4 (Litana 8, Saileti 30, K Bwalya 47, K. Malitoli 73).
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** C. Massembe (Uga)
Mali: Farota — Moussa Keita, Souleymane Sangare, A Sidibe (Sekou Sangare 46), Diallo, A Traore, S Toure (B Traore 49), B Toure, Soumano, S Traore, Coulibaly.
Zambia: Mwamba — Chongo, Litana, M Malitoli, Chiyangi, Lungu (Chilumba 77), Joel Bwalya, Sakala, K Bwalya, Saileti (Makwaza 67), K Malitoli.

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

Tunis — April 10
IVORY COAST 3 (Kone 2, Ouattara 67, Sie 70)
MALI 1 (Diallo 46).
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** P Mathabela,(SA).
Ivory Coast: Gouamene — Aka Kouame, Hobon, Abouo, C Amani, Sie, Guel, Y Amani, Kone (Camara 87), Yago (Bassole 64), Ouattara.
Mali: Farota — Moussa Keita (B Toure 78), Sekou Sangare, M Sidibe, Guindo (H Sangare 15), Souleymane Sangare, Ndiaye, Diallo, Diop, B Traore, Soumano.

FINAL

Tunis — April 10
NIGERIA 2 (Amunike 5, 47)
ZAMBIA 1 (Litana 3).
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** LK Chong (Mau).
Nigeria: Rufai — Eguavoen, Iroha, Okechukwu, Okafor, Oliseh, George (Siasia 41), Okocha (Ugbade 73), Amokachi, Amunike, Yekini.
Zambia: Phiri — Chongo, Litana, M Malitoli, Chiyangi, Mulenga (Makwaza 60), Sakala, Joel Bwalya (Jonson Bwalya 70), K Bwalya, K Malitoli, Saileti.

EGYPT

Saafane El Saghir	G	Ismailia
Hussein El Sayed	G	Zamalek
Ahmed Shoubier	G	Al Ahly
Mohamed Abdelghelil	D	Al Ahly
Hamza El Gamal	D	Ismailia
Islam Fathi	D	Canal FC
Fawzi Gamal	D	Ismailia
Ashraf Kassem	D	Al Ahly (Saudi)
Talaat Mansour	D	Zamalek
Hani Ramzy	D	Neuchatel Xamax (Swi)
Mohamed Youssef	D	Al Ahly
Reda Abdelal	M	Al Ahly
Fekri Al Shaghir	M	Ismailia
Khaled Eln Gandour	M	Zamalek
Ahmed Abdou El Kass	M	Olympic
Yasser Rayan	M	Al Ahly
Ali Yahia	M	Canal FC
Ashraf Youssef	M	Zamalek
Ibrahim Al Masry	F	El Masry
Ayman Mansour	F	Zamalek
Mohamed Ramadan	F	Al Ahly
Bashir Abdel Samad	F	Ismailia

Coach: Taha Ismail

GUINEA

Foda Laye Camara	G	Horoya
Saliou Diallo	G	Hafia
Sita Camara	D	Gbenko Kankan
Abdoul Karim Bangoura	D	No club
Ousmane Fernandez	D	ASFAG
Karifa Sidibe	D	Aubervilliers (Fra)
Morlaye Soumah	D	Valenciennes (Fra)
Edgar Babara Sylla	D	Evry (Fra)
Mohamadou Sylla	D	Liembeek (Bel)
Mohamed Ofei Sylla	D	Vannes (Fra)
Ansou Camara	M	RWD Molenbeek (Bel)
Ousmane Camara	M	Kaloum Stars
Sekou Oumar Drame	M	Stade Abidjan (Ivo)
Sekou Soumah	M	Willem II Tilburg (Hol)
Abdoul Salam Sow	M	Kortrijk (Bel)
Abdoul Karim Sylla	M	Olympic Conakry
Mohamed Lamine Sylla	M	Willem II Tilburg (Hol)
Aboubacar Camara	F	St Etienne (Fra)
Fode Camara	F	St Nicholas (Bel)
Souleymane Oulare	F	Beveren (Bel)
Alkaly Soumah	F	Hafia
Demba Pablo Thiam	F	Koln (Ger)

Coach: Naby Camara

NIGERIA

Wilfred Agbonvbare	G	Rayo Vallecano (Spa)
Alloy Agu	G	Liege (Bel)
Peter Rufai	G	GA Eagles (Hol)
Augustine Eguavoen	D	Kortrijk (Bel)
Ben Iroha	D	Vitesse Arnhem (Hol)
Stephen Keshi	D	No club
Uchenna Okafor	D	ACB Lagos
Uche Okechukwu	D	Fenerbahce (Tur)
Isaac Semitoje	D	Iwuanyanwu Nationale
Nduka Ugbabe	D	No club
Mutiu Adepoju	M	Racing Santander (Spa)
Fuludu Edema	M	BCC Lions
Efan Ekoku	M	Norwich City (Eng)
Victor Ikpeba	M	Monaco (Fra)
Austin Okocha	M	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
Thompson Oliha	M	No club
Sunday Oliseh	M	Liege (Bel)
Daniel Amokachi	F	FC Brugge (Bel)
Emmanuel Amunike	F	Zamalek (Egy)
Finidi George	F	Ajax (Hol)
Samson Siasia	F	Nantes (Fra)
Rashidi Yekini	F	Vitoria Setubal (Nig)

Coach: Clemens Westerhof (Hol)

TUNISIA

Ali Boumnijel	G	Gueugnon (Fra)
Chokri El Ouaer	G	Esperance
Radhouane Salhi	D	Etoile Sahel
Mounir Boukadida	D	Etoile Sahel
Taoufik Hichri	D	Vitoria Guimaraes (Por)
Mohamed Ali Moahjoubi	D	Esperance
Imed Mizouri	D	Etoile Sahel
Mourad Okbi	D	Al Ahly Jeddah (Sau)
Ahmed Souissi	D	CA Bizerte
Tarak Thabet	D	Esperance
Mohamed Trabelsi	D	OC Kerkennah
Lofti Ben Sassi	M	Olympique Beja
Raouf Bouzaene	M	Laval (Fra)
Sirajeddine Chihi	M	Esperance
Mourad Gharbi	M	CA Bizerte
Adel Sellimi	M	Club Africain
Samir Sellimi	M	Club Africain
Skander Soyayeh	M	CS Africain
Ayadi Hamrouni	F	Esperance
Jamel Limam	F	Stade Tunisien
Faouzi Rouissi	F	Caen (Fra)
Ziad Tlemcani	F	Vitoria Guimaraes (Por)

Coach: Youssef Zouaoui, replaced by Faouzi Benzerti

GABON

Claude Babe	G	AS Sogara
Germain Mendome	G	AS Sogara
Armel Rolenga	G	Mbilinga
Francois Amegasse	D	Mbilinga
Pierre Aubame	D	Le Havre (Fra)
Michel Biyoghe	D	Petrosport
Francois Koumba	D	Petrosport
Tristan Mombo	D	Mbilinga
Parfait Ndong	D	Mbilinga
Adrien Nkoumba	D	AS Sogara
Thierry Retoa	D	AS Sogara
Etienne Kassa Ngoma	M	AS Sogara
Germain Mintsa	M	FC 105 Libreville
Jean-Daniel N'Dong-Nze	M	Petrosport
Placide Nvangala	M	Autillac (Fra)
Valery Ondo	M	Mbilinga
Jacques Pigna	M	Mangasport
Brice Mackaya	F	Petrosport
Regis Manon	F	FC 105 Libreville
Guy-Roger Nzamba	F	Mulhouse (Fra)
Jonas Ogandaga	F	AS Sogara

Coach: Jean Thissen (Bel)

IVORY COAST

Alain Gouamene	G	ASEC Abidjan
Konate Losseni	G	ASEC Abidjan
Macaire Obou	G	Africa Sport
Sam Dominique	D	ASEC Abidjan
Lassina Dao	D	ASEC Abidjan
Vilasco Fallet	D	ASEC Abidjan
Jean-Marie Gbahou	D	ASEC Abidjan
Arsene Hobou	D	Africa Sport
Basile Kouame Aka	D	ASEC Abidjan
Celestin Amani	M	Africa Sport
Sidi Badra Aliou	M	ASEC Abidjan
Yacouba Comara	M	Africa Sport
Tehiressoa Guel	M	ASEC Abidjan
Adama Clofie Kone	M	ASEC Abidjan
Serge-Alain Maguy	M	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
Donald Olivier Sie	M	ASEC Abidjan
Yao Lambert Amani	F	Africa Sport
Eugene Beugre Yago	F	Africa Sport
Michel Bassole	F	ASEC Abidjan
Ahmed Quattara	F	Africa Sport
Joel Tiehi	F	Le Havre (Fra)
Abdoulaye Traore	F	ASEC Abidjan

Coach: Henry Kasperczak (Pol)

SENEGAL

Papa Waly Ndiaye	G	Jeanne d'Arc
Rene Charles Ndiaye	G	AS Douanes
Cheikh Seck	G	No club
Moustapha Diagne	D	Fountainebleau (Fra)
Mamadou Mariem Diallo	D	Port Autonome
Boubacar Gassama	D	Casa Sports
Momath Gueye	D	ASC Ndiambour
Aly Male	D	Jeanne d'Arc
Adolphe Mendy	D	ASC Ndiambour
Issa Tambedou	D	Port Autonome
Moussa Camara	M	AS Douanes
Lamine Moise Cisse	M	Diaraf Dakar
Mamadou Faye	M	Bastia (Fra)
Mame Birame Mangane	M	Estrela Amadora (Por)
Abdoul Yoro Ndiaye	M	AS Douanes
Lamine Sagna	M	Diaraf Dakar
Mamadou Diallo	F	Kawkab Marrakesh
Mamadou Diarra	F	Port Autonome
Alassane Dione	F	AS Doanes
Souleymane Sane	F	Wattenscheid (Ger)
Athanas Tendeng	F	Casa Sports
Amara Traore	F	Guengnon (Fra)

Coaches: Jules Bocande/Boubacar Sarr

ZAIRE

Mukuayanzo Balayima	G	Feyenoord (Hol)
Kasango Mpia	G	DC Motema Pembe
Bilolo Tambwe	G	Vita Club
Ntumba Danga	D	Lommel SK (Bel)
Kabwe Kasongo	D	DC Motema Pembe
Epangala Lokose	D	Vita Club
Tamukini Lukima	D	Vita Club
Mbaki Makengo	D	Hoogstraten (Bel)
Mansoni Ngombo	D	FC Seraing (Bel)
Jose Nzau	D	Racing Paris (Fra)
Lemba Basuala	M	Vitoria Guimraes (Por)
Kubu Lembi	M	Antwerp (Bel)
Lugomgola Mateso	M	Diest (Bel)
Kabeya Mukanya	M	Lommel SK (Bel)
Mbote Ndinga	M	Vitoria Guimaraes (Por)
Yoko Ngwengwe	M	DC Motema Pembe
Ngaduana Bunene	F	QwaQwa Stars (SA)
Elonga Ekakila	F	Beveren (Bel)
Menama Lukaku	F	FC Seraing (Bel)
Mayo Mbunga	F	Dragons Kinshasa
Ekanza Nsimba	F	Beerschot (Bel)
Ngov Nsumbu	F	Germinal Ekeren (Bel)

Coach: Mukendi Kalala

GHANA

Simon Addo	G	Goldfields
Edward Ansah	G	Ghana Ports Authority
Anthony Mensah	G	Asante Kotoko
Frank Amankwah	D	Asante Kotoko
Emannuel Ampeah	D	Asante Kotoko
Emmanuel Armah	D	Hearts of Oak
Tony Baffoe	D	Metz (Fra)
Afo Dodoo	D	Goldfields
Agyeman Duah	D	Asante Kotoko
Stephen Frimpong	D	Asante Kotoko
Alexander Opoku	D	VfB Leipzig (Ger)
Bernard Whyte	D	Hearts of Oak
Yaw Acheampong	M	Goldfields
Charles Akunnor	M	Fortuna Koln (Ger)
Sam Johnson	M	Hearts of Oak
Nii Odartey Lamptey	M	PSV Eindhoven (Hol)
Oscar Laud	M	Dawu Youngsters
George Arthur	F	Asante Kotoko
Abedi Pele Ayew	F	Lyon (Fra)
Kwame Ayew	F	Lecce (Ita)
Prince Polley Opoku	F	Twente Enschede (Hol)
Anthony Yeboah	F	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)

Coach: Emmanuel Aggrey-Fynn

MALI

Ousmane Farota	G	Stade Malien
Karamoko Keita	G	Garges (Fra)
Dramane Dembele	D	Djoliba
Yatouma Diop	D	Stade Malien
Oumar Guindo	D	Djoliba
Moussa Keita	D	Credit Agricole (Mor)
Souleymane Sangare	D	Real Bamako
Abdoul Karim Sidibe	D	Djoliba
Modibo Sidibe	D	USFAS
Amadou Pathe Biallo	M	Quarteirense (Por)
Demba Ndiaye	M	Ile Rousse (Fra)
Habib Sangare	M	Sohan SC (Oman)
Sekou Sangare	M	Auxerre (Fra)
Sory Ibrahim Toure	M	Stade Malien
Abdoulaye Traore	M	St Pauloise (Rl)
Brehima Traore	M	AS Mande
Soro Camara	F	Bitou Segou
Fernand Coulibaly	F	Al Wahda (Saudi)
Makan Keita	F	Djoliba
Ousmane Soumano	F	No club
Soumaila Traore	F	Raja Casablanca (Mor)
Bassala Toure	F	KAC Marrakesh (Mor)

Coach: Mamadou Keita

SIERRA LEONE

Brima Kamara	G	East End Lions
Osaid Marah	G	Tienen (Bel)
Vannie Bockarie	D	Kambai Eagles
Kemokai Kallon	D	AS Kaloum (Guinea)
Abubakar Kamara	D	East End Lions
Mohamed Kanu	D	Eendracht Aalst (Bel)
Basiru King	D	Union Douala (Cam)
Mohamed Mansaray	D	FC Boom (Bel)
Abdulai Sessay	D	Ports Authority
Lamine Bangoura	M	Horoya (Guinea)
Abdul Conteh	M	Georgetown Cobras (Guy)
Lamine Conteh	M	Beerschot (Bel)
Abu Kanu	M	East End Lions
Amidu Karim	M	Mighty Blackpool
Ibrahim Koroma	M	FC Boom (Bel)
John Sama	M	Gezan Attuhama (Saudi)
Matthews Tieh	M	Mighty Blackpool
Leslie Allen	F	FC Mbilinga (Gab)
Kassim Conteh	F	East End Lions
Bfima George	F	Diamond Stars
Musa Kanu	F	Lokeren (Bel)
John Gbassay Sessay	F	Vitoria Setubal (Por)

Coach: Raymond Zarpanelian (Fra)

ZAMBIA

John Mubanga	G	Nkana FC
Martin Mwamba	G	Power Dynamos
James Phiri	G	ZANACO
Aggrey Chiyangi	D	Power Dynamos
Harrison Chongo	D	Al Tuum (Saudi)
Elijah Litana	D	Roan United
Mordon Malitoli	D	Nkana FC
Kapambwe Mulenga	D	Nkana FC
Kingsley Musabula	D	Zamsure
Harrison Tembo	D	Kabwe Warriors
Joel Bwalya	M	RC Harelbeke (Bel)
Tenant Chilumba	M	Power Dynamos
John Lungu	M	Roan United
Linos Makwaza	M	Power Dynamos
Evans Sakala	M	Chatsworth Rangers (SA)
Happy Sichikolo	M	Kabwe Warriors
Jonson Bwalya	F	FC Bulle (Swi)
Kenneth Malitoli	F	Esperance (Tun)
Gibby Mbasela	F	Esperance (Tun)
Zeddy Saileti	F	Nkana FC

Coach: Ian Porterfield (Sco)

Commentary

Keir Radnedge

From KOREA

DID YOU know that this is Visit Korea Year? Nor did I. But it is. And I have . . . at the invitation of the South Korea FA, to see the 1994 professional championship get under way, discover exactly why they want to host the 2002 World Cup, and meet some of the major players in world football's political game.

The man who would be king

CHUNG MONG-JOON is 43, limps slightly from an old soccer injury which wrecked his right knee, is one of the richest men to feature in these pages and has set himself on a revolutionary course apparently at odds with a most modest and unassuming manner.

But then the achievements of such men often outstrip those of would-be rivals who allow their egos to confuse their ambition.

Chung (above) is president of the South Korea FA, a Member of Parliament, chairman of Ulsan University, is seeking election as Asia's new FIFA vice-president, and wants to bring the World Cup to Korea in 2002 while, simultaneously, using that lever to help achieve the reunification of the two Koreas, North and South. That may sound more like the work of several lifetimes than less than a decade, but Chung has everything it takes to become a major player on world football's political scene. He has also undertaken a campaign tour of Asia to garner support for his vice-presidential ambitions.

When I met him he had put 20 countries behind him; in the following couple of weeks he had another dozen or more scheduled into his calendar.

The success of this airways whirlwind will be judged in votes at the Asian Confederation congress in May. But he is an impressive candidate and his fellow Koreans consider Chung's possible accession to international power as an important stepping-stone in their campaign to host the 2002 World Cup.

However, as political confusion would have it, one of his rivals is Tadao Murata, general secretary of the Japanese World Cup bidding committee.

2002 World Cup Korea

Truth be told, the Asian game could go for decades without finding even one man of such calibre as these two — let alone two simultaneously.

Murata has put many years into the service of the game and, from a football point of view, holds the advantage in terms of contacts and experience.

Chung, on the other hand, is sixth son of the founder of Korea's colossal Hyundai engineering giant; thus his potential as an industrial patron is almost beyond calculation. To give you a clue: the chunk of Hyundai controlled by Chung includes Korea's biggest car plant as well as the largest shipyard in the world, turning out one tanker, rig or whatever, every working week.

That's some muscle when you're running for election.

But Chung and Murata are not the only candidates. There's also Mohammad Hammam, president of the Qatar FA as well as Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Sabah of Kuwait. This Sheikh Ahmad is a son of the the Sheikh who earned sporting notoriety by waving his players from the pitch after a controversial refereeing decision in their 1982 World Cup tie against France; the same Sheikh who then met his death, revolver in hand, in the Kuwaiti royal palace, trying single-handedly to repel Saddam Hussein's invading armies.

In the past, the Gulf and Arab nations never have been able to hold the political line. This time could be different because Murata and Chung may well, inadvertantly, split the remainder of the Asian vote.

In this context, the Asian Confederation secretary-general, Peter Velappan, has felt the whisper of concern that he might have done more to shape the "right" result by persuading one or more candidates to withdraw in return, of course, for some suitable trade-off further down the political line.

But then, Velappan, as you may have noticed from all the speculation whirling his name into the FIFA power battle, surely has been exercised by a whole host of other political considerations out in the big wide football world.

Three doors to progress

JAPAN has built up a long lead in the race to be first past the post in securing the first World Cup of the next century.

FIFA officials say so, the Japanese know it, so do the South Koreans. Japanese officials first took steps towards forming a bidding committee back in the late 1960s; Japan's campaign took promotional wings in worldwide terms from the launch of the J.League last year; Japanese companies have long been among the World Cup's keynote sponsors.

By contrast the Koreans set up their bidding committee only in January this year. Their professional league has been running 13 years. But, on the other hand, it operates with only seven company-owned teams.

The Koreans have one hell of a (political) fight on their hands. But when it comes to a political and diplomatic challenge they have chosen their leadership wisely with two former Ambassadors. Lee Hong-koo is president of the bidding committee, KOBID 2002; Park Kun-woo is secretary-general.

Just so you understand the double-edged importance of the World Cup bid to South Korea, Lee Hong-koo (right) is a former Minister for Reunification, with long experience of trying to bring the two Koreas together. And this is both the strength and weakness of the Korean bid. It also holds the key to the central issue: Why should the Koreans want to host the World Cup finals?

Park starts with all the other reasons. He says: "We have a long football history. Before the Korean War we had a very high overall standard even if the game was a little stronger in the North. But we are all proud of our football. We qualified for the first time in 1954; we have qual-

Year of Football Renaissance

LASER LIGHTS, fireworks, pop stars, dancing girls, folk music, flag and banner displays all add up, these days, to an opening match.

In this case in the POSCO stadium in Pohang, eastern Korea, to celebrate the start of the 13th Korean Championship in a year officially designated by the KFA as the Year of Football Renaissance.

The match itself was lively, entertaining and resulted in a 3-1 win for visiting Yukong Elephants over the POSCO Pochol Atoms. Such names may sound surreal beyond Korea but there is nothing surreal about the Korean championship, its history, or the industrial corporations who own the teams and pay the players up to £120,000 a year.

Money is not a problem. The champions will receive, for the first time this year, a cash prize of £170,000.

Whether independent clubs will be developed, as in Japan, appears unlikely. In the meantime the championship is organised on a pyramid system. At the pinnacle is the professional division which was launched on May 8, 1983, composed of fully professional Yukong Elephants and Hallelujah FC plus three top amateur teams, the POSCO Atoms, Daewoo Royals and Citizens National Bank.

In December of 1983 Daewoo turned professional, so did POSCO Atoms in February 1984 with Hyundai and Lucky-Goldstar being founded in between. Ilhwa Chonma joined the league in 1988.

Below the Professional Championship comes a two-division senior league, an under-22 collegiate league, and an under-18 senior high school league as well as organised competitive structures for under-15s and under-12s.

KOREAN LEAGUE TEAMS

POSCO ATOMS

Founded: 1973 (Owners: Pohang Steel Company, hence the acronym)
Professional: 1984
Champions: 1982, 1987, 1988, 1992

ILHWA CHONMA

Founded: 1988
Champions: 1993

HYUNDAI HORANG-I

Founded: 1983

DAEWOO ROYALS

Founded: 1983
Champions: 1984, 1987, 1991
Afro-Asian Cup: 1987
Asian Club Championship: 1986

LUCKY-GOLDSTAR CHEETAHS

Founded: 1983
Champions: 1990, 1991

YUKONG ELEPHANTS

Founded: 1983
Champions: 1989

EXTER BUFFALOES

Founded: 1993

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ified for the last three finals tournaments. No other Asian nation can say that. So we have tradition and we have an unequalled record of success on the pitch itself."

But Japan have made all the running? "We know that. They have been working for the last three years. It's a friendly rivalry. They say they have always had the same level of interest in soccer as us: but I don't think so. Our history goes much further back."

What is the plan of campaign? "We have envisaged three doors through which we must pass. The first is seeing Mr Chung elected to FIFA. He has the background and knowledge to do a fine job.

The second door is that our national team will play at the 1994 World Cup finals: how we perform is very important to give the rest of the world game a good impression. Of course, I don't tell the players this: they have enough pressure on them already.

The third door is bringing South and North Korea together. The North are interested in our World Cup bid. They have a wonderful stadium in Pyongyang, perhaps the biggest in all Asia. There are still eight years to the year 2002.

"It would be perfect timing then to bring together the last divided country in the world. What better medium than to achieve this through football? It makes a lot of sense, don't you think?"

The rest of the world may not think so. The rest of the world will worry about political snags such as the recent stalemate over North Korea's nuclear capacity. But in the South they do not understand why outsiders worry. For them, there is no issue. They have, after all, lived with the split for 40 years.

This is a gap of understanding. On a more practical level, Korea must quickly set about narrowing the gap with Japan in terms of grounds.

South Korea has seven stadia of around 30,000 capacity. But, if the POSCO Steel Stadium at Pohang is anything to go by, the surrounds and the pitch and the general facilities are simply not up to World Cup standard. The stadium would need to be knocked down and rebuilt. The Koreans would be wise to recognise the fact now — and act on it. At least in companies such as Hyundai, South Korea possesses the necessary engineering expertise.

And that is just for starters. The Koreans need a crash course in World Cup management and intend to undertake precisely that by sending a study team to the US in June and July.

Park says: "We will send a team to look at every aspect of staging a World Cup: stadia, media, hotels, transport, infrastructure."

Then he added: "I remember that, when it came to bidding for the 1988 Olympic Games, we were not among the favourites. It was thought we had made our effort much too late. But, perhaps to the general surprise, we won. And we staged the Olympic Games with a level of efficiency and expertise which astonished the rest of the world.

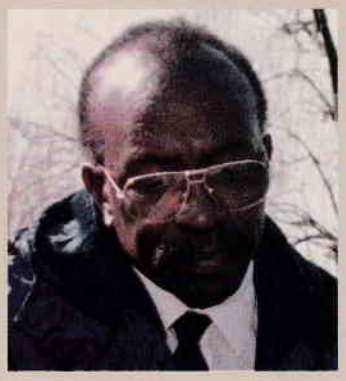
"What we have achieved once, we can achieve twice."

Keir Radnedge

A new wave in the Caribbean

MENTION the name Jack Warner to a certain generation in Britain and the image conjured up is of Dixon of Dock Green — the friendly neighbourhood policeman portrayed by the actor Jack Warner in days when the status quo still applied and Britannia ruled the waves.

But football's Jack Warner (right) is a very different act. He is the Trinidadian president of CONCACAF, interested only in challenging the status quo and he has done so to such effect that the Central and North Americans have cause to believe they will have three



World Cup places guaranteed in France in 1998.

It will not go unnoticed where it matters that Warner's single-minded determination to wake up an administrative Rip Van Winkle has overtaken Asia — some feat for this history lecturer from Trinidad and Tobago.

Warner was never a professional footballer. The opportunity did not arise, even had he been talented enough. He played midfield in teams at school and college and had turned to his real forte, administration, by the time he was 27. He says: "I was disappointed with the way football was being administered in the Caribbean. Everything was amateur."

His degree studies, first in history and sociology then in international relations, set him up ideally to become, in 1974, general secretary of the Trinidad and Tobago FA.

That was the first staging post from which he launched his campaign to transform football in first the Caribbean then the entire North and Central American region.

In 1978 he became general secretary of the Caribbean Football Union, creating the foundations of a network of youth tournaments which impressed Joao Havelange when FIFA's president dropped in. Warner claims the credit, through his under-16 tournaments, for giving Havelange the idea for the World Junior Championship.

His work bore fruit both on and off the pitch. Trinidad and Tobago came within one point of pipping the US to a place at the 1990 World Cup finals and Warner graduated to CONCACAF president. Those were the days when the US were sleeping partners and the CONCACAF headquarters — equally sleepy — were in Guatemala City.

Warner says: "CONCACAF was in the doldrums. No programmes. No championships. I told the member countries I wanted to change all that. They knew exactly what they were getting — and I did exactly what I said.

"The first thing was to move the offices from Guatemala City to New York. Then we started to put in place development programmes, proper schedules for international matches with financial levies, competitions for women and, with the creation of the Gold Cup, we were really taking off."

Warner is the first to admit that his timing could not have been better, with the US assigned as World Cup hosts. The spin-offs, in terms of regional interest and sponsor contacts, were enormous.

American Airlines and Coca-Cola, both involved in World Cup sponsorship, needed little persuading to include the new CONCACAF Gold Cup in their commercial plans. CONCACAF's coffers will be further swollen by the levies due from the World Cup.

Warner is, to all intents and purposes, a full-time president. How else could he have sacrificed the 36 hours to fly from Tunisia to South Korea ?

He already had taken early retirement from his post as a history lecturer in Trinidad and now looks forward to the time when the outside world will realise that football, not cricket, is by far the more popular sport in the Caribbean.

He says: "When Jamaica play Barbados at cricket you might get 50 people watching. When Jamaica play Barbados at football you'll get 25,000. Nobody abroad realises that. But they will, when one of our teams reaches the World Cup finals."

Since CONCACAF is being promised a third place at the finals in 1998, such a day may not be too far away. What an arresting achievement that would be for Jack Warner!

Unhappy **Hamzah**

DATU Seri Hamzah Bin Haju Abu Samah is not a happy man. In mid-May the 70-year-old banker, barrister and former government Minister faces his first serious challenge in nearly 20 years as president of the Asian Confederation.

What promises to be perhaps the most aggressively progressive congress in the history of the AFC could rearrange the political balance of power and thus the strategy by which the Asian game approaches and enters the next century.

Hamzah, veteran Malaysian sports politician, is being challenged by Ahmad Shah, president of the Malaysian FA and Sultan of Pahang State, just when he is ready to wind down his mandate with what he envisaged as the crowning glory of his final term.

This should be the completion of the AFC's new headquarters on land which Hamzah persuaded his Malaysian Prime Minister to release to secure for Kuala Lumpur the honour of being capital of the massive Asian football empire.

"I want only one more term of office," says Hamzah, who had already envisaged a planned handover of power to the young men pressing in. Hamzah, a wily politician who has juggled football leadership with International Olympic Committee membership among a host of other appointments, is clearly upset at seeing the concluding episode of his grand plan being challenged at this late stage in his mandate.

Now, being challenged is one thing; being challenged by the president of "his own" Malaysian Federation is something else again.

Hamzah resists the temptation to complain: "After all I've done to put Malaysia on the football map." But you can feel it in the pride he displays reviewing the development of Asian football over the past 20 years — above all in creating the youth competitions which should provide the foundations for the Asian game to go on growing long after Hamzah has departed, whether by vote or choice.

The AFC Congress is on May 15, on home ground in Kuala Lumpur. The murmuring in the corridors of would-be power suggests that Hamzah is an outsider in his own country; that the allure of the Sultan of Pahang will prove too strong for delegates to resist.

But, like a certain Joao Havelange, Hamzah plainly believes that 20 years in power must count for something.

the power game

CHUNG MOON-JONG is president of the Korean FA and many other organisations. He is one of the richest men seeking to progress up the FIFA ladder. He is also one of the most modest and unassuming.

SILVIO BERLUSCONI is president of Milan and suddenly a political leader in Italy. He shamelessly stole the Forza Italia slogan of Italy's football fans for his political party. The incestuous relationship between politics and business corrupted Italian public life. Now politics and business interests have been fused in one man. Who dare withstand him at the level of "mere" football?

JOAO HAVELANGE has not survived as FIFA president for 20 years without exercising the power which goes with the job. Promising extra places at the World Cup for Asia and CONCACAF ensured enough votes to dissuade any would-be challengers from running against him in June. Havelange is there for another four years. Don't be surprised if, after the World Cup, he takes a long, cold look at "his" staff at FIFA's headquarters in Zurich.

INTERVIEW

MARK IRWIN LOOKS AT A NEW FACE IN THE ENGLAND FRAME

In at t

Anderton shows t

DARREN ANDERTON is the young man at the sharp end of the England revolution, determined to prove that there is still room for wingers in international football.

Anderton was one of the major successes of Terry Venables's first game in charge of the national team, a 1-0 win against Denmark at Wembley. He made his senior debut after seven games for the Under-21s, and only a goal-line clearance denied him the following day's headlines.

After an understandably tentative start, Anderton grew in confidence, and by the second half was running at defenders at will to deliver the sort of crosses England supporters have not seen for quite a while.

"I was very nervous because I didn't know whether I was going to cope at that level," Anderton admits. "But Terry Venables and Don Howe told

me to get an early touch of the ball and that helped me to settle down.

"My confidence grew as the game went on and everything went better than I could have imagined. I was on cloud nine for about a week. The game came as a huge boost for myself and for everyone at Tottenham."

Anderton knew there was talk of a call-up the moment that Venables was confirmed as England coach. Venables, after all, had signed him for Spurs from Portsmouth, for £2million, 18 months earlier.

"Terry made me the player I am today," he admits. "I have nothing but respect for him as a person and as a coach.

"I actually laughed when he told me the size of the transfer fee Tottenham were paying for me, but when it was explained how highly they rated me, that filled me with confidence.

"My first three months at the club were a disaster. I was having problems with the rented accommodation I was living in, and also was trying to play through what I thought was a groin strain but which turned out to be a damaged hernia.

"But even when things weren't going well, Terry helped me and made me believe in myself. He worked overtime with me on the training ground, teaching me when to go looking for a ball and when to stay out wide.

"Even when I was finally fit to return after the hernia operation, he kept me on the bench for two or three games to make sure I was really hungry for action. He has been a major influence on my career, and working with him again can only make me a better player."

Full flight . . . the Everton defence is tied in knots as Anderton attacks.

he sharp end

at wingers can survive

Not that Anderton is taking his place in the England squad for granted. It's just that after his impressive senior debut, he knows it will be a major surprise if he is omitted from England's next senior squad.

Ironically, he could have been playing for Scotland after receiving an invitation to attend a trial for their Youth team as a 17-year-old.

"I was a first-year apprentice at Portsmouth when this letter arrived inviting me to a trial at their national training centre in Largs," he recalls. "My dad is Scottish and we travelled up together, but I hated every minute of it.

"There were 40 of us there and I didn't know anyone. They didn't even know what position I played. I spent three days at right-back and then they said they'd let me know. I'm still waiting!"

Scotland's loss has proved to be England's gain, but Anderton knows that he will only retain his place in the national squad if he can maintain his form at club level.

Tottenham's struggle on all fronts this season has come as a bitter disappointment to everyone at White Hart Lane, but Anderton probably has been the only ray of sunshine.

Yet even he has had to adapt his game during striker Terry Sheringham's long absence.

"Darren is without doubt the finest crosser of a ball in the country," insists Sheringham, but Anderton says: "Without a big target man to aim for, there isn't much point in whipping in so many crosses.

"During Teddy's absence I was coming inside off the wing more and having a go at goal myself. I'm not a scorer and I never will be. But I've contributed more in that department this season and it's an area I can develop.

"Since Ossie Ardiles took over as manager I've been given permission to roam where I like. That means I'm not stuck out on the touchline hoping and waiting for a pass to come my way.

"That is the most frustrating part of being a winger. During my early years at Portsmouth, I'd get so impatient waiting for the ball to arrive that when it finally did come I'd invariably do something silly.

"Now I make sure I don't give the ball away. I appreciate the value of possession."

With John Barnes seemingly finished an international after one lacklustre performance too many, and Chris Waddle's fading chances hampered by an endless run of injuries, Anderton now has the chance to establish himself as England's most effective wide man since Steve Coppell more than 11 years ago.

Ardiles has no doubts that his protege has the ability to achieve all that is expected of him.

"Darren made the most impressive international debut I have ever seen," he says. "He is only 22, and improving all the time, both tactically as well as physically.

"He has matured a lot this season and has a great future."

Anderton is simply concentrating on delivering the ammunition for Alan Shearer, Les Ferdinand, Ian Wright or whichever other strikers Venables chooses in the forthcoming games against Greece and Norway.

"It's my job to get the centres in," he says simply. "The rest of the team know that whenever I get the ball I'm looking to cross it. That gives them an advantage over the opposition."

THE WIDE BOYS

ENGLAND have used 19 wingers since the end of Sir Alf Ramsey and his wingless wonders in May, 1974. Here's the complete list over the past 20 years.

Player	Caps	Goals	Dates
Dave THOMAS (QPR)	8	0	Oct 74 — Nov 75
Peter TAYLOR (Crystal Palace)	4	2	March 76 — May 76
Gordon HILL (Manchester Utd)	6	0	May 76 — Oct 77
Ian CALLAGHAN (Liverpool)	4	0	June 66 — Oct 77
Peter BARNES (Man City, WBA, Leeds)	22	4	Nov 77 — May 82
Steve COPPELL (Manchester Utd)	42	7	Nov 77 — March 83
Laurie CUNNINGHAM (WBA, Real Madrid)	6	0	May 79 — Oct 80
Graham RIX (Arsenal)	17	0	Sep 80 — April 84
Tony MORLEY (Aston Villa)	6	0	Nov 81 — Nov 82
John BARNES (Watford, Liverpool)	73	11	May 83 — June 93
Mark BARHAM (Norwich)	2	0	June 83
Mark CHAMBERLAIN (Stoke)	8	1	Dec 82 — Oct 84
Chris WADDLE (Newcastle, Spurs, Marseille)	62	6	Mar 85 — Oct 91
Mark WALTERS (Rangers)	1	0	June 91
John SALAKO (Crystal Palace)	5	0	June 91 — Sep 91
Andy SINTON (QPR)	12	0	Nov 91 — Nov 93
Tony DALEY (Aston Villa)	7	0	Nov 91 — June 92
Stuart RIPLEY (Blackburn)	1	0	Nov 93
Darren ANDERTON (Spurs)	1	0	March 94

BY PADDY AGNEW

Solo effort . . . Napoli's Paolo Di Canio scores the winner against Milan.

On the brink

Napoli still in danger now that the goose has gone

JUST to remind you that football is a funny old game, up popped liquidation-threatened Napoli to become only the second team this season to defeat Milan in the League.

Napoli's 1-0 defeat of the champions served only to focus attention on the ridiculous financial plight of a side who four years ago were winning their second Italian championship and who could at that time count on approximately 50,000 season ticket sales.

Those were, of course, the Maradona years. Napoli's current plight emphatically underlines just how much Diego meant to the club's sporting and financial fortunes. When commentators expressed dismay at the lenient line taken by Napoli with their wayward star throughout much of his seven-year stay, they were missing the point.

Maradona's petulant and unpredictable behaviour, his missing of training and the favourable treatment afforded him were bad for club discipline but his departure was much worse — it precipitated a financial crisis that could lead to liquidation.

We knew it then but it is even more apparent now: Maradona was the goose who laid Napoli's golden eggs.

His footballing genius provided success of the kind not seen in Naples before or since, success that included two Italian titles and one UEFA Cup.

Such success meant obvious cash flow in terms of box office receipts, season ticket sales, sponsorships, advertising etc. Unfortunately for Napoli, Maradona was the most "marketable" image of that success.

With his departure Napoli were no longer an interesting advertising vehicle. They became an intensely ordinary, middle-of-the-table side.

Season ticket sales plummeted from a maximum of over 55,000 to under 10,000, this season yielding only $2.6million, or seven times less than Milan earned from their 1993-94 season ticket sales.

In addition to the Maradona effect, one suspects that the club have been ill-managed. The fact that one of their current outstanding bills concerns 20 years worth of debts owing to Naples city council for the use of the San Paolo stadium suggests that up-to-the-minute accountancy has not always been a priority at Napoli.

After all, the city of Naples, for all its infrastructural, unemployment and organised crime problems, provides a healthy catchment area for the financial fortunes of a great club.

Yet Napoli's immediate future remains highly uncertain, with a consortium led by current president Ellenio Gallo struggling to meets debts estimated at more than $50million.

After two former Napoli heroes of the Maradona era, coach Ottavio Bianchi and the then president Corrado Ferlaino, both abandoned attempts to resolve the club's complicated affairs, Gallo's consortium now looks like Napoli's last stand.

The consortium has drawn up a rescue plan which has apparently met with the approval of the club's major debtors, a number of local banks, but which envisages a future of drastic fiscal rectitude.

In short, the best players will have

RESULTS

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	29	19	8	2	33	11	46
Juventus	29	14	11	4	50	24	39
Sampdoria	29	17	5	7	56	32	39
Lazio	29	14	9	6	43	29	37
Parma	29	16	5	7	46	27	37
Torino	29	10	10	9	35	29	30
Napoli	29	10	10	9	37	33	30
Internazionale	29	10	8	11	38	36	28
Cremonese	29	9	9	11	35	35	27
Foggia	29	7	13	9	38	41	27
Genoa	29	7	13	9	27	33	27
Piacenza	29	8	11	10	30	38	27
Cagliari	29	8	11	10	34	43	27
AS Roma	29	6	14	9	24	27	26
Udinese	29	6	11	12	26	41	23
Reggiana	29	6	10	12	20	31	22
Atalanta	29	4	9	16	29	57	17
Lecce	29	3	5	21	24	58	11

LEADING SCORERS

1. Roberto **BAGGIO** (Juventus) 16
   Giuseppe **SIGNORI** (Lazio) 16
3. Ruben **SOSA** (Internazionale) 15
   Daniel **FONSECA** (Napoli) 15
   Andrea **SILENZI** (Torino) 15
6. Ruud **GULLIT** (Sampdoria) 14
   Marco **BRANCA** (Udinese) 14

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

WEEKEND

LAZIO 0
MILAN 1 (Massaro 48). **Att:** 70,584.

JUVENTUS 1 (R. Baggio 53)
TORINO 1 (D. Fortunato 64). **Att:** 40,000.

SAMPDORIA 3 (Gullit 29, 34, Lombardo 52)
ATALANTA 1 (Valentini 83). **Att:** 20,000.

FOGGIA 3 (Cappellini 34, Kolyvanov 67, 88)
PARMA 2 (Zola 10, Asprilla 17). **Att:** 20,000.

INTERNAZIONALE 0
NAPOLI 0. **Att:** 35,000.

CAGLIARI 2 (Oliveira 60, Napoli 73)
PIACENZA 0. **Att:** 12,000.

CREMONESE 1 (Maspero 35 pen)
AS ROMA 1 (Balbo 10). **Att:** 77,000.

LECCE 1 (Padalino 72)
UDINESE 0. **Att:** 6,000.

REGGIANA 1 (Scienza 54)
GENOA 1 (Skuhravy 58). **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MIDWEEK

ITALIAN CUP — SEMI-FINALS, 2ND LEG

PARMA 0
SAMPDORIA 1 (Gullit 22). **Att:** 14,000.
Sampdoria win 2-1 on agg

TORINO 0
ANCONA 0. **Att:** 10,560.
Ancona win 1-0 on agg

WEEKEND

MILAN 2 (Boban 47, Massaro 54)
FOGGIA 1 (Kolyvanov 66). **Att:** 70,000.

ATALANTA 1 (Ganz 6)
JUVENTUS 3 (Conte 52, R. Baggio 81 pen, 84). **Att:** 30,000.

AS ROMA 0
SAMPDORIA 1 (R. Mancini 25). **Att:** 45,000.

PARMA 2 (Melli 57, Zola 86 pen)
CREMONESE 1 (Maspero 62). **Att:** 23,000.

PIACENZA 1 (Piovani 59)
LAZIO 2 (Negro 60, Di Matteo 72). **Att:** 12,000.

TORINO 2 (P. Pogi 47, Cois 55)
INTERNAZIONALE 0. **Att:** 25,000.

NAPOLI 1 (Fonseca 58 pen)
CAGLIARI 2 (Oliveira 15, 81). **Att:** 35,000.

UDINESE 2 (Branca 71 pen, Pizzi 88 pen)
REGGIANA 1 (Padovano 80). **Att:** 20,000.

GENOA 2 (Ciocci 20, Onorati 26)
LECCE 0. **Att:** 28,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

WEEKEND

JUVENTUS 0
MILAN 1 (Eranio 60). **Att:** 62,000.

SAMPDORIA 1 (Gullit 13)
TORINO 0. **Att:** 30,000.

REGGIANA 0
PARMA 0. **Att:** 16,000.

AS ROMA 0
LAZIO 1 (Signori 6). **Att:** 70,000.

INTERNAZIONALE 1 (Sosa 53)
UDINESE 0. **Att:** 40,000.

LECCE 0
NAPOLI 1 (Fonseca 50). **Att:** 11,000.

FOGGIA 1 (Cappellini 34)
ATALANTA 1 (Saurini 45). **Att:** 17,000.

CAGLIARI 0
CREEMONESE 0. **Att:** 15,000.

PIACENZA 1 (Papais 30 pen)
GENOA 1 (Skuhravy 7). **Att:** 18,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 13

WEEKEND

ATALANTA 3 (Orlandini 24, Morfeo 81, 86)
LECCE 4 (Biondo 36, Gerson 39, Gazzani 63, Ayew 88). **Att:** 17,000.

CREMONESE 2 (Tentoni 55, Maspero 69)
FOGGIA 0. **Att:** 9,000.

GENOA 1 (Galante 87)
JUVENTUS 1 (Del Piero 35). **Att:** 30,000.

MILAN 1 (Massaro 26)
SAMPDORIA 0. **Att:** 75,000.

PARMA 4 (Zola 45, 88, Asprilla 64, Brolin 86)
INTERNAZIONALE 1 (Sosa pen 67). **Att:** 25,600.

AS ROMA 0
REGGIANA 0. **Att:** 47,000.

TORINO 2 (Silenzi 58, pen 76)
CAGLIARI 1 (Herrera 72). **Att:** 22,000.

UDINESE 2 (Borgonovo 23, Pizzi pen 29)
LAZIO 2 (Winter 25, Signori 38). **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 20

WEEKEND

MILAN 2 (Bergomi 46 og, Massaro 89)
INTERNAZIONALE 1 (Schillaci 85). **Att:** 76,000.

CAGLIARI 0
SAMPDORIA 0. **Att:** 18,000.

FOGGIA 1 (De Vincenzo 16)
AS ROMA 1 (Giannini 75). **Att:** 20,000.

GENOA 3 (Skuhravy 39 pen, 80 pen, Onorati 86)
UDINESE 0. **Att:** 30,000.

JUVENTUS 4 (Del Piero 19, 57, 88, Ravanelli 77)
PARMA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

LAZIO 3 (Di Mauro 29, Signori 52, Favalli 53)
NAPOLI 0. **Att:** 50,000.

LECCE 2 (Baldieri 42, Gerson 70)
CREMONESE 4 (Maspero 13 pen, 56, Padalino 76 og, Giandebiaggi 92). **Att:** 6,500.

PIACENZA 4 (Moretti 41, Papais 45 pen, Piovani 48, Iacobelli 84)
ATALANTA 0. **Att:** 11,000.

REGGIANA 1 (Esposito 2)
TORINO 0. **Att:** 12,745.

to go. Uruguyan Daniel Fonseca is top of the list and he already has prompted the interest of Milan, Juventus and Real Madrid.

The asking price is currently around $9million, plus players in exchange.

Fonseca, mind you, comes expensive at the price because he is looking for an annual wage of approximately $1.5 million, his current "theoretical" Napoli salary.

One writes "theoretical" because Fonseca, in common with his team mates, has not been paid this year.

All of which provided a fitting backcloth to Paolo Di Canio's 79th-minute winner against Milan.

Di Canio, a potential item for sale, as well as being a Juventus reject last summer, silenced his many critics with a remarkable individual goal, twisting and feinting before scoring from the narrowest of angles, despite being outnumbered five to one in the Milan penalty area.

Not that Milan's loss to Napoli (Sampdoria were the other side to have defeated them in the league, 3-2 last October) has done much more than temporarily halt their majestic progress.

Other news concerns the future of Internazionale, who despite getting to a UEFA Cup semi-final, continue to add defeat to defeat in the league.

Coach Giampiero Marini, called in to replace the sacked Osvaldo Bagnoli in February, will be on his way at the end of the season.

Marini, who picked up only three points in his first eight games, already has been joined at Inter by Ottavio Bianchi, who obviously decided that even Inter's currently drastic state of playing affairs was preferable to sorting out Napoli's financial mess.

For the time being, Bianchi is acting in an "advisory" role but next season, he will be the full-time Internazionale coach.

Final thought this month concerns Lazio coach Dino Zoff.

Having taken his side to the top end of the table and on course for a second successive UEFA Cup qualification, Zoff probably felt he deserved to hold on to to his job. The club's president, financier Sergio Cragnotti, thought otherwise, replacing Zoff for next season with the talented Bohemian Zdenek Zeman, currently with Foggia.

To soften the blow, however, Cragnotti came up with the brilliant wheeze of appointing Zoff president of the club, in charge of day-to-day administration.

Thus Lazio held on to one of their greatest current assets, namely the skill, experience and good sense of one of Italy's most popular figures.

Silvio's still in charge

WITHIN hours of his remarkable Italian General Election victory, Silvio Berlusconi, owner-president of Milan, was reassuring the readers of sports daily *Gazzetta Dello Sport* that he had no intention of renouncing his control of the club.

Millionaire and TV tycoon Berlusconi proved a surprisingly clear General Election winner when the right-wing Freedom Poll, led by his own new Forza Italia and including the Federalist Northern League and the Neo-Fascist National Alliance, ended up with 366 of the lower house's 630 seats.

In the expectation that Berlusconi would be the man to lead Italy's next and 53rd post-war government, many commentators speculated that he might immediately abandon several spheres of interest, including Milan.

His electoral victory also prompted a call from FIFA President Joao Havelange for him to sell Milan and "not mix sport with politics".

Havelange's call prompted speculation that Berlusconi might "sell" the club to his brother Paolo or appoint his son, Piersilvio, as acting President.

For the time being, Berlusconi denies such plans, saying: "I will do everything to hold on to Milan and I hope that this will not prove incompatible with my future obligations.

"In any case . . . it's been a good while now since I was involved in the running of the club on a day to day basis."

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BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

SIMPLY THE BOSS

Franz makes such a difference

BAYERN MUNICH were riding high at the top of the Bundesliga, having taken advantage of the temporary loss of form by their main rivals, Eintracht Frankfurt and Bayer Leverkusen.

Failure in European tournaments badly affected the morale of both clubs.

After starting his managerial reign with a defeat, Franz Beckenbauer is now the undisputed "Kaiser" again.

"I began as boss of the national team and then Marseille with a setback, so the mishap against Stuttgart was just running true to form," he said.

The fact that his team soon climbed to the top leaves him unimpressed. "Only our position after the 34th and final round is of consequence," he insists. "We want to win the championship and must therefore be successful in all our home matches," he added, after Bayern's first win over title-holders Werder Bremen for seven years.

There is little doubt that Beckenbauer is making a telling impact on the Bundesliga. Bayern's general manager and Beckenbauer's former team-mate, Uli Hoeness, says: "Franz is the perfect manager. He sees everything, and always finds the right word for every player.

"Nobody dares to contradict him in his presence and they all had to train during the winter break as never before. He is putting everything into the job."

No wonder that Bayern's management wants Beckenbauer to stay as "trainer" for at least another year. But Beckenbauer, also the club's vice-president, says: "That is impossible. I have to honour my contracts and commitments abroad."

Arsene Wenger (team chief at Monaco), Dragoslav Stepanovic (Bayer Leverkusen) and Otto Rehhagel (Werder Bremen) are being sounded out as possible replacements.

Fanciful stories in a British tabloid that Kenny Dalglish of Blackburn is wanted, are dismissed in Munich as absurd. Last year another British rag claimed that Bayern were after Peter Reid, but no British manager has a hope of managing in Germany.

He would need a German coaching licence (which takes six months to get), or he would have to be a national team manager with a proven record of success, and/or speak German. End of fairy stories.

Newly-promoted MSV Duisburg caused a sensation when, for the first time in 20 years, they took over at the top. They were the only Bundesliga leaders in 30 years with a negative goal tally, 29-30.

In the next match they were overrun by Bayern in Munich, 4-0. Still, they are in the running for a UEFA Cup place, and that is quite remarkable given their potential.

The Duisburger have only 2,700 members, to Bayern's 25,000. Their average gate is 22,700, against 44,400. They have 30 fan clubs to Bayern's 800. They have been League leaders three times, Bayern 333 times.

Their budget is £6million, Munich's £10million. And Duisburg have never been champions, and never won the Cup.

Rot-Weiss Essen have failed with their appeal against demotion to the amateur ranks for producing falsified accounts to the DFB in order to get an extension of their professional licence.

This has been cancelled and the Essen outfit's further games in the Second Division all count as victories for their opponents, who automatically get two points. The players' contracts will be declared void.

And the club's last professional appearance will be in the Cup Final on May 14, against Werder Bremen.

King Klinsmann

WorldCup USA94

THE German national side continued their World Cup preparations with a 2-1 win over Italy in Stuttgart. The Germans dominated the match and came from behind thanks to two goals by Jurgen Klinsmann (above).

His devastating finishing silenced the critics who gave him stick during the trip to America in December.

National team manager Berti Vogts called up three uncapped men — defender Ralf Weber (Eintracht Frankfurt) and midfielders Mehmet Scholl (Bayern Munich) and Mario Basler (Werder Bremen).

But the big surprise was the recall of Thomas Berthold (VfB Stuttgart). He was last picked nearly three years ago, in a European Championship qualifier against Wales in Cardiff, and was sent off.

RESULTS

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	27	13	9	5	57	29	35
Ein. Frankfurt	27	12	7	7	46	30	33
Karlsruhe	27	11	9	7	37	28	31
Hamburg	27	13	5	9	43	38	31
Kaiserslautern	27	12	10	5	44	33	30
Bayer Leverkusen	27	11	8	8	48	38	30
Koln	27	12	6	9	38	36	30
VfB Stuttgart	27	10	9	8	42	36	29
MSV Duisburg	27	11	7	9	32	39	29
Borussia MG	27	11	6	10	53	48	28
Bor. Dortmund	27	11	7	9	38	39	28
Werder Bremen	27	9	8	9	34	31	26
Dynamo Dresden	27	7	12	8	28	38	26
Schalke 04	27	9	7	11	31	38	25
Freiburg	27	7	8	12	42	48	22
Nurnberg	27	7	6	14	32	44	20
Wattenscheid	27	3	10	13	31	51	16
VfB Leipzig	27	2	10	15	25	56	14

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

MIDWEEK

GERMAN CUP — QUARTER-FINAL

WERDER 1 KAISERSLAUTERN 1
Werder Bremen won 4-3 on pens

WEEKEND

EINTRACHT 1 (Mihajlovic 45)
NURNBERG 1 (Kramny 33). **Att:** 30,000.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Chapuisat 37)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 0. **Att:** 41,130.

WERDER BREMEN 2 (Bratseth 1, Bode 18)
KAISERSLAUTERN 0. **Att:** 19,500.

DUISBURG 2 (Weidemann 29, Wohlert 68)
VfB LEIPZIG 1 (Pancev 50). **Att:** 16,100.

BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Matthaus 21 pen)
VfB STUTTGART 3 (Buchwald 5, Walter 49, Buck 84). **Att:** 34,000.

HAMBURG 1 (Von Heesen 86)
FREIBURG 1 (Braun 1). **Att:** 19,966.

BORUSSIA MG 1 (Hochstatter 30)
KARLSRUHE 2 (Krieg 46, Nowotny 72). **Att:** 30,000.

WATTENSCHEID 1 (Lesniak 44)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Marschall 16). **Att:** 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

WEEKEND

DUISBURG 1 (Kozle 75)
WERDER BREMEN 0. **Att:** 21,000.

LEIPZIG 1 (Anders 54)
BAYERN MUNICH 3 (Scholl 3, Nerlinger 4, Ziege 33). **Att:** 37,000.

NURNBERG 0
KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Kuntz 24, Degen 72). **Att:** 27,000.

KARLSRUHE 1 (Kiriakov 5)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0. **Att:** 25,000.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 (Thom 45)
HAMBURG 2 (Von Heesen 71, Albertz 80). **Att:** 19,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 3 (Kranz 31, H. Fuchs 60, Marschall 83)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0. **Att:** 14,800.

STUTTGART 3 (Buck 47, Strunz 67, Kienle 82)
WATTENSCHEID 0. **Att:** 15,000.

FREIBURG 2 (Kohl 52, Rraklli 55)
KOLN 4 (Polster 8pen, 89, Heldt 27, Kohn 78). **Att:** 15,000.

SCHALKE 2 (Linke 45, Sendscheid 86)
BORUSSIA MG 1 (Bachirou 48). **Att:** 47,730.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

WEEKEND

BAYERN MUNICH 4 (Nerlinger 5, Labbadia 35, 37, Valencia 41)
DUISBURG 0. **Att:** 38,000.

KAISERSLAUTERN 0
KARLSRUHE 0. **Att:** 38,000.

HAMBURG 1 (Von Heesen 88)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Jahnig 47). **Att:** 18,350.

KOLN 1 (Heldt 75)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 (Worns 43). **Att:** 35,000.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Yeboah 64)
SCHALKE 3 (Sendscheid 33, Mulder 64, Anderbrugge 72 pen). **Att:** 25,000.

WERDER BREMEN 2 (A. Herzog 39, Basler 73)
NURNBERG 2 (Zarate 26 pen, 78). **Att:** 15,363.

BORUSSIA MG 1 (Max 39)
FREIBURG 1 (Zeyer 31). **Att:** 20,000.

WATTENSCHEID 2 (Sane 30, 85)
LEIPZIG 2 (Weichert 6, Anders 88 pen). **Att:** 9,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

WEEKEND

BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Nerlinger 47, Valencia 66)
WERDER BREMEN 0. **Att:** 63,000.

DUISBURG 2 (Steininger 21, Nothoff 36)
WATTENSCHEID 1 (Lesniak 39). **Att:** 19,000.

SCHALKE 2 (Sendscheid 71, Mulder 82)
KAISERSLAUTERN 0. **Att:** 42,690.

KARLSRUHE 3 (Bender 47, Schmitt 69, Schutterle 74)
NURNBERG 2 (Zarate 4, Sutter 61). **Att:** 21,000.

STUTTGART 4 (Dunga 71, Dubajic 72, Kienle 77, Knup 80). **Att:** 30,000.

FREIBURG 1 (Borodiuk 25)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 3 (Yeboah 17, 36, Gaudino 86). **Att:** 15,000.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 0
BORUSSIA MG 1 (Herrlich 8). **Att:** 22,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Nowak 55)
KOLN 1 (Hauptmann 19). **Att:** 19,500.

LEIPZIG 2 (Heidrich 30, Anders 81)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 3 (Chapuisat 47, Sippel 72, 74). **Att:** 18,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 13

MIDWEEK

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Chapuisat 68)
STUTTGART 2 (Knup 51, 66). **Att:** 41,517.

GERMAN CUP — SEMI-FINALS

RW ESSEN 2 TENNIS BORUSSIA 0

DYNAMO DRESDEN 0 WERDER 2

WEEKEND

WATTENSCHEID 1 (Bach 88)
BAYERN MUNICH 3 (Valencia 48, Matthaus 65, Frey 70). **Att:** 32,000.

EIN. FRANKFURT 2 (Doll 20, Yeboah 85)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 0. **Att:** 32,000.

KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Wagner 41)
FREIBURG 0. **Att:** 32,261.

HAMBURG 3 (Ivanauskas 44, Baron 45, Sporl 67)
LEIPZIG 0. **Att:** 23,463.

BOR. DORTMUND 2 (Ricken 44, Schulz 62)
DUISBURG 1 (Kozle 61). **Att:** 42,800.

KOLN 3 (Poister 38, Heldt 68, Arveladze 90)
STUTTGART 1 (Heldt 41 og). **Att:** 28,000.

WERDER BREMEN 0
KARLSRUHE 2 (Bender 51, 62 pen). **Att:** 20,300.

BORUSSIA MG 2 (Herrlich 11, 41)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Rath 13). **Att:** 42,000.

NURNBERG 0
SCHALKE 1 (Anderbrugge 68). **Att:** 42,000.

BY GRAHAM TURNER

Prosinecki peaks again

Return to form gives Real new hope

SHOCK, HORROR! Prosinecki lives! The transformation of the man earmarked for a knock-down sale at the end of the season is certainly a major shock.

His obituary as a Real Madrid player had been drafted after opening with three League games and one goal in the 1991-92 season. A total of 29 games and three goals in 1992-93 only served to earn him some heartfelt "acclaim" in the Boo-nabeu stadium, and his performances in 1993-94 could have been accompanied by a few bars from Highway to Hell.

Benito Floro, then Real's coach, decided to drop him after two games. Thereafter he started only seven League games and was sent on as sub five times. In four Spanish Cup fixtures he played 57 minutes. In Europe he had one full game against mighty Lugano, plus a few bit parts.

Floro chucked him a couple of Supercup appearances against Barcelona to keep his fitness ticking over in a season where his overall personal balance was seven full games out of 38 fixtures. He started in the team, drifted into the dug-out and ended up not getting changed.

It seemed easy to see why. As anchor-man in front of Real's disturbingly permeable back four, he found Fernando Hierro at his elbow and a series of whipper-snapping opponents ready to capitalise on his preference for two, three, four touches and a couple of dribbles before parting with the ball.

His free-kicks tended to pepper fans between rows 17 and 43, and similar degrees of inaccuracy turned his long pass into the long ball. Not a great dividend, thought the Real fans, on an investment of £1.5million per year.

Then Hierro, after a spell of not talking to his boss, phoned Prosinecki (above) to tell him of Floro's dismissal. "Robby" was in Zagreb playing in an Emigrants v Locals match aimed at sorting out the Croatian national team. "Loverly, bubberly," said Prosinecki, and ordered a bottle of champagne.

He did not know that Vicente Del Bosque's appointment was a turn for the better but he knew that a turn for the worse was well-nigh impossible.

Back in Madrid, Del Bosque told him he was back in the team and in next to no time the Real fans saw an amazing Hyde-to-Jekyll transformation.

Del Bosque, who would have been a world-class midfielder had his pace been anything like his skill, had ideas about Robby. He pushed him forward into the hole behind the front runners and told him to play football.

So Prosinecki, removed from the pressure-mob in midfield, started running defences ragged, playing cheeky one-twos, spraying backheeled passes all over the place and, to everyone's amazement, scoring four goals in the following three games.

Even his free-kicks started hitting the target . . . and a horse called Prosinecki, whose previous best was 13th, romped home by five lengths at the Hipodromo. The dejected old nag of a footballer living on borrowed time suddenly brimmed with confidence and enthusiasm.

Spanish fans were not overly keen to share his enthusiasm when he scored the opener for Croatia in their 2-0 win over Spain in Valencia, and went even further under the moon when Sevilla's Davor Suker scored the second.

Incidently, Spain's first home defeat since October 1991 did little to help coach Javier Clemente in the last friendly before naming his World Cup squad. But the Prosinecki show was back on the road.

When he scored the crucial second goal in the 3-2 win over Valencia, Real were one point behind Barcelona and three behind leaders La Coruna, having come back enough times to warrant a lead role in Terminator 3.

More importantly, he had helped Real to score 12 goals in the three matches subsequent to the managerial change. The last nine under Floro had produced the same total.

Del Bosque was given credit for removing tactical shackles which, in turn, raised Floro's hackles. He was so upset by criticism of his earlier labours that he forsook intentions of "gentlemanly agreements" in his negotiations for an indemnity and announced he was going to put the legal knife in up to the hilt.

The two sides could not agree where the hilt was. So while Del Bosque was being threatened with all sorts of mayhem by the Coaches Association for breach of the regulation which prohibits new managers from sitting in the dug-out until the old one has been paid off, lawyers bickered over a clause in Floro's contract whose author, according to one Real director, should have been taken out and sacrificed.

Both sides, according to the contract, agreed not to tear it up before June 30, 1993. "Arrived that date," said the text, not expected to win the next Nobel prize for literature, "an

Not so Sporting

SPORTING GIJON had a fine start this season, and their new manager, Mariano Garcia Remon, was being widely praised.

But they then went 10 games without a win to plunge into the bottom half, with striker Juan Castano "Juanele" only one of the early wonder-boys to suffer an abrupt loss of form.

He made his international debut against Portugal in February and, barring accidents, seems likely to be included as a "wild card" in the World Cup squad. Unfortunately, they do not come a great deal wilder.

The latest in a rosary of "acts of indiscipline" came when, after Barcelona had drawn 1-1 in Santander, Juanele had a few jars with former team-mate Ivan Iglesias, now doing sterling work in the engine-room of the new, pragmatic Barcelona.

Around five in the morning a glass hit the deck near Juanele's golden feet, and the Sporting striker failed to live up to his club's name by replying with a butt that left the owner of the shattered glass with an equally shattered nose.

The recipient of the "Glasgow kiss" was the Mayor of Santander's nephew, which did not help. Then all sorts of "influential" persons started phoning the victim's home urging him to drop charges against Juanele.

indemnity of 125 million pesetas (£625,000) will be payable". Real said "arrived" meant before. Floro said it meant after.

He then totted up other bits and pieces, put in a demand for £1.1million, and finally settled for under half.

Guus Hiddink settled for half of nothing when he agreed to return to Valencia for the final nine games.

The club paid him full compensation for the rest of the season when he was dismissed last November and, after two presidential resignations, one major financial scandal and brief appearances of Messrs. Real, Nunez and Rielo in the dug-out, Francisco Roig emerged as winner of the presidential elections and had the bright idea of bringing back Hiddink back to do the work he had been paid for.

Guus, after keeping his head down and pretending to be in Italy negotiating with Intern, finally decided there was no Hiddink place and headed back for a second helping of paella.

There was one new face in the dressing-room. Roig, after a trip to South America to sound out Tele Santana and Francisco Maturana as replacements for Hiddink, used the Colombian connection to secure Victor Hugo Aristizabal of Atletico Nacional, on loan with an option to buy.

Aristizabal, 22, has represented Colombia at every level, and scored 70 goals in 140 games since turning professional.

Try as they might, however, Valencia have not matched the turnover at Atletico Madrid. At the time of writing, the assorted tactical teachings of Jair Pereira, Cacho Heredia, Emilio Cruz, Jose Luis Romero, Santos Ovjero and Jorge D'Alessandro had been of such benefit that relegation looked possible, for the first time since 1933-34.

When Atletico jumped for joy at their first away win of the season, against bottom club Osasuna, Jesus Gil was a long way from the presidential chair. As Mayor of Marbella, he claims to have travelled to Moscow hoping to declare them Twin Cities. Others feel he was more interested in signing the Russian national team manager, Pavel Sadyrin.

Michael must stay, say the fans

BARCELONA'S Cup exit and the 6-3 hiding in Zaragoza has led coach Johan Cruyff to change his approach.

He has opted for a more settled line-up. Michael Laudrup (right) is feeling the negative effects of Koeman, Stoichkov and Romario occupying the three foreign berths, and has adopted a more pragmatic style.

Barcelona no longer operate with two wingers and have drifted into a more orthodox 3-5-2 using more conservative players, such as left-back Sergi, in wing-back roles. As Koeman says, "the Spanish players are doing the dirty work for the foreigners".

The foreigners have responded by scoring 22 of Barcelona's 27 goals in the past two months.

Rumours of Laudrup's imminent move to Real Madrid when his contract expires in June have prompted Barca supporters to start petitions and, at the time of writing, 22,000 fans had signed a massive invitation for Michael to stay at Nou Camp.

Barcelona also were sending messages to La Coruna in a war of nerves aimed at preventing the Galician club from winning a first League title.

Cruyff and his henchmen sent daily reminders that Deportivo are not the stuff champions are made of; that they have not enough quality; that they cannot score enough goals. According to Barcelona, the leaders are a load of rubbish.

Much as they tried to deny it, Deportivo definitely began to suffer a touch of the jitters. A month without a win, including home draws to Zaragoza and Valladolid, whittled their six-point advantage down to two, until a 4-1 home win over Bilbao belatedly restored their confidence and their conviction that they are still capable of producing the brilliant football they served up last season.

Their mantle of "moral champions" has been passed to Zaragoza, who were last but one after nine games, with five points.

Banners asking for Victor Fernandez's dismissal had begun to appear at Romareda, but since then the side coached by the First Division's youngest manager have taken 31 points from 19 games and qualified for a second consecutive Cup Final, against Celta Vigo.

This looks an easier proposition than the Real Madrid team who beat Zaragoza last year. Had they made an average start instead of a disastrous one, Fernandez now would be in the fight for the title.

He has assembled a team gifted enough to play football all over the park. Argentinian international Fernando Caceres holds together a back four with Javi Aquado alongside him and Alberto Belsue and "Chucho" Solana on the flanks. Santi Aragon and the Uruguayan Gustavo Poyet anchor the midfield with help from Miguel Pardeza and Jose Aurelio Gay, leaving Argentina's Juan Eduardo Esnaider and the great success story of the season, Francisco "Paquete" Higuera, up front. Higuera made his debut for Spain in the Croatia match and could yet sneak into the World Cup squad.

RESULTS

PRIMERA DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	30	18	5	7	71	38	41
La Coruna	29	16	9	4	38	14	41
Real Madrid	30	17	6	7	50	35	40
Real Zaragoza	30	15	6	9	53	34	36
Athletic Bilbao	29	13	8	8	43	30	34
Sevilla	30	12	9	9	45	33	33
Albacete	30	10	12	8	45	40	32
Tenerife	30	13	5	12	40	42	31
Sporting Gijon	30	13	4	13	38	37	30
Valencia	30	11	8	11	38	42	30
Real Sociedad	30	11	8	11	34	40	30
Racing Santander	30	11	7	12	32	33	29
Oviedo	30	9	10	11	29	40	28
Rayo Vallecano	30	9	9	12	38	51	27
Atletico Madrid	30	8	9	13	42	25	25
Celta Vigo	30	7	10	13	25	35	24
Logrones	30	6	12	12	37	48	24
Valladolid	30	5	13	12	22	39	23
Lleida	30	6	10	14	23	40	22
Osasuna	30	5	8	17	21	48	18

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

MIDWEEK

SPANISH CUP — SEMI-FINALS, 1ST LEG

REAL BETIS 0
REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Aragon 32). **Att:** 20,000.

CELTA VIGO 3 (Gudelj 17, 31, Salillas 80)
TENERIFE 0. **Att:** 15,000.

WEEKEND

REAL SOCIEDAD 0
LA CORUNA 1 (Ribera 72). **Att:** 20,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 0
REAL MADRID 1 (Morales 83). **Att:** 90,000.

BARCELONA 8 (Koeman 15 pen, 43 pen, Amor 41, Romario 55, 59, 81, Quique 79, Stoichkov 86 pen)
OSASUNA 1 (Jose Mari 86). **Att:** 65,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Moises 69)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 0. **Att:** 25,000.

SPORTING GIJON 2 (Radchenko 2, Pineda 90)
RACING SANTANDER 0. **Att:** 19,840.

SEVILLA 2 (Monchu 4, Marcos 67)
REAL OVIEDO 0. **Att:** 25,000.

ALBACETE 1 (Zalazar 19)
VALLADOLID 1 (Garcia 87). **Att:** 12,000.

CELTA VIGO 1 (Andrijasevic 72 pen)
TENERIFE 0. **Att:** 22,000.

VALENCIA 3 (Mijatovic 22, 75, Mendieta 56)
LLEIDA 3 (Milinkovic 45, Rubio 51 pen, Matosas 82). **Att:** 40,000.

LOGRONES 1 (Jose Ignacio 8)
RAYO VALLECANO 1 (Hugo Sanchez 17). **Att:** 9,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MIDWEEK

LA CORUNA 5 (Bebeto 15, 29, 73, Lopez Recarte 57, Claudio 65)
ALBACETE 1 (Zalazar 53). **Att:** 22,000.

RACING SANTANDER 1 (Geli 6)
REAL MADRID 3 (Zigmantovic 20 og, Setien 27 og, Luis Enrique 78). **Att:** 27,700.

VALLADOLID 1 (Amavisca 59)
BARCELONA 3 (Koeman 53, 71 pen, Romario 88). **Att:** 30,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 0
LOGRONES 0. **Att:** 35,000.

OSASUNA 0
REAL ZARAGOZA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 4 (Bango 31, 85, Tomas 70 og, Tevenet 82)
SEVILLA 2 (Kosecki 1, Luis Garcia 20). **Att:** 12,000.

TENERIFE 3 (Pablo 6 og, Latorre 17, Dertycia 92 pen)
SPORTING GIJON 0. **Att:** 11,522.

RAYO VALLECANO 1 (Onesimo 76)
VALENCIA 1 (Quique 70). **Att:** 8,000.

LLEIDA 0
CELTA VIGO 0. **Att:** 20,000.

WEEKEND

BARCELONA 3 (Stoichkov 23, Romario 30, Laudrup 78)
LA CORUNA 0. **Att:** 100,000.

REAL MADRID 1 (Michel 76)
TENERIFE 1 (Dertycia 66). **Att:** 80,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 2 (Poyet 8, Solana 87)
VALLADOLID 0. **Att:** 18,000.

OSASUNA 0
ATHLETIC BILBAO 0. **Att:** 17,139.

SEVILLA 2 (Suker 45, 52)
RACING SANTANDER 1 (Gelucho 89). **Att:** 25,000.

SPORTING GIJON 1 (Abelardo 69)
LLEIDA 1 (Pares 25). **Att:** 15,800.

ALBACETE 5 (Nilson 1, 13, 53, Dos Santos 40, Menendez 65)
REAL OVIEDO 0. **Att:** 12,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Kodro 42, 61)
ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Kosecki 80). **Att:** 18,000.

VALENCIA 3 (Mijatovic 27 pen, 33, Camarasa 54)
LOGRONES 1 (Romero 36). **Att:** 38,000.

CELTA VIGO 0
RAYO VALLECANO 0. **Att:** 18,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

LA CORUNA 1 (Bebeto 44)
REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Poyet 48). **Att:** 25,000.

REAL OVIEDO 1 (Jankovic 55)
BARCELONA 3 (Koeman 10, Stoichkov 48, Ivan 84). **Att:** 23,202.

LLEIDA 2 (Pares 18, Anderson 29)
REAL MADRID 1 (Hierro 20). **Att:** 12,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 2 (Larrazabal 12, Ciganda 83)
VALENCIA 1 (Quique 87). **Att:**35,000.

TENERIFE 2 (Pier 20, 63)
SEVILLA 1 (Monchu 79). **Att:** 16,000.

RACING SANTANDER 4 (Popov 40, Radchenko 65, 87, Setien 94)
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Kodro 90). At: 18,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 0
ALBACETE 0. **Att:** 30,000.

RAYO VALLECANO 2 (Calderon 56, Hugo Sanchez 86)
SPORTING GIJON 1 (Sabou 24). **Att:** 9,000.

LOGRONES 1 (Salenko 72)
CELTA VIGO 1 (Losada 90). **Att:** 8,000.

REAL VALLADOLID 2 (Alberto 2, 10)
OSASUNA 1 (Luque 95). **Att:** 13,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 13

MIDWEEK

SPANISH CUP — SEMI-FINALS, 2ND LEG

REAL ZARAGOZA 3 (Poyet 93, Gay 107, Moises 110 pen)
REAL BETIS 1 (Rios 90).
Real Zaragoza win 4-1 on agg

TENERIFE 2 (Aguilera 45, Dertycia 62)
CELTA VIGO 2 (Gudelj 67, 73).
Celta Vigo win 5-2 on agg

WEEKEND

BARCELONA 5 (Romario 12,65, 73, Stoichkov 40, 80)
ATLETICO MADRID 3 (Pedro 21 pen, Manolo 35, Caminero 45). **Att:** 95,000.

REAL MADRID 5 (Prosinecki 5 pen, 85, Hierro 39, 89, Butragueno 50)
RAYO VALLECANO 2 (Onesimo 44, 84). **Att:** 42,000.

CELTA VIGO 1 (Otero 16)
VALENCIA 2 (Quique 20, Arroyo 79). **Att:** 22,000.

SPORTING GIJON 1 (Escaich 50)
LOGRONES 2 (Abelardo 55 og, Salenko 81). **Att:** 15,850.

SEVILLA 2 (Suker 22, Del Campo 83)
LLEIDA 1 (Virgilio 19). **Att:** 25,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Albistegui 53, Kodro 62)
TENERIFE 1 (Llorente 73). **Att:** 18,000.

ALBACETE 3 (Dos Santos 24, Geli 26, Menendez 61)
RACING SANTANDER 0. **Att:** 12,000.

OSASUNA 0
LA CORUNA 0. **Att:** 17,000.

VALLADOLID1 (Ivan 15 pen)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Larrazabal 21). **Att:** 22,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 2 (Nayim 47, Gay 74)
OVIEDO 1 (Carlos 32). **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 20

WEEKEND

LA CORUNA 0
VALLADOLID 0. **Att:** 20,000.

RACING SANTANDER 1 (Radchenko 4)
BARCELONA 1 (Amor 82). **Att:** 25,000.

LOGRONES 3 (Romero 57, Juanma 78, 83)
REAL MADRID 4 (Prosinecki 22, Martin Vazquez 41, Hierro 63, Sanchis 73). **Att:** 15,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 0
REAL ZARAGOZA 4 (Esnaider 14, Belsue 69, Aragon 76 pen, Garcia Sanjuan 84). **Att:** 45,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 2 (Larrazbal 44 pen, Ciganda 86)
CELTA VIGO 1 (Andrijasevic 42). **Att:** 30,000.

TENERIFE 2 (Chano 33, Conte 52)
ALBACETE 1 (Nilson 81). **Att:** 15,000.

VALENCIA 1 (Mijatovic 87)
SPORTING GIJON 0. **Att:** 37,000.

LLEIDA 1 (Milinkovic 86)
REAL SOCIEDAD 0. **Att:** 9,000.

OVIEDO 1 (Armando 60)
OSASUNA 0. **Att:** 13,125.

RAYO VALLECANO 2 (Onesimo 35, Hugh Sanchez 86)
SEVILLA 1 (Diego 49). **Att:** 10,000.

BY ANDRE DUCLOS

Djorkaeff shines as new dawn breaks

IT'S always darkest before the dawn. And we have had a brave new dawn in French football.

Too late, alas, to qualify us for the 1994 World Cup finals after those two pathetic home defeats by Israel and Bulgaria. But not too late to give great hope for the future, to dispel all those exaggerated tales of gloom, doom and ultimate decay which circulated after the defeat by Bulgaria.

France's magnificent victory in Naples against Italy, followed by Monaco's crushing of Galatasaray and Paris Saint Germain's win over Real Madrid in the Cup-winners Cup showed that there is life in the old dog yet. In abundance.

Has Aime Jacquet, grudgingly greeted as a mere stopgap manager, waved some kind of a magic wand to get France playing with passion and penetration again? Or is it just the old story of any new manager being hailed by his team until disillusion finally sets in?

French football is up and running once more, even if the Marseille scandal is still so emphatically with us, even if it is bound to take time for the wounds to heal from the pitifully botched attempt to reach America.

Youri Djorkaeff has come strongly into the frame. He scored the only goal in *Naples, and has been so prominent for* Monaco in the Champions Cup.

Djorkaeff says that despite recent success, he doesn't think he's a different player this season. "I don't have the impression that I have changed a lot of things in my game," he says.

"The difference is that they've made me play from the start. What I've been waiting for since I've been at Monaco is this confidence, that people should finally tell me, 'Go on, Youri, play the way you know.'

"I did deserve this confidence in me before, because I was persuaded to give my all. But it wasn't what the manager wanted from me. I didn't understand. I'd score one week and be left out the next."

Djorkaeff would ask his much respected manager, Arsene Wenger, who could be destined for higher and more lucrative things abroad, why this was happening. But he was not satisfied with the explanations he got, and they reached stalemate. At that point, Djorkaeff gladly would have gone.

Lucky for Monaco, and perhaps for him, that he did not. Wenger told him he was happy with him, but that he expected a lot more. Djorkaeff says he did not know what a lot more could mean. It worried him.

"If someone said to me, 'you have to get up at 5am and run two hours a day', I'd have done it. But I was left on my own, not knowing what I ought to do."

At Monaco, he says, people talked to him about his virtues, not his defects. He thought a lot about all this when on the bench, discovering that he was expected to go back and look for the ball. But this, he felt, was what was expected from a defender, not from an attacker.

Before joining Monaco, all people wanted from him was that he should score goals. Now he had to change and, he says, he has done so.

This season, Djorkaeff says, he has gained a great deal from the presence of the gifted Belgian, Enzo Scifo.

He now thinks of himself as an attacking midfielder more than as a striker. The man who supplies the last but one *pass, rather than* the decisive ball that comes from such as Scifo.

In Naples, he feels he laid to rest the belief that he fades out of the important matches. And he succeeded, he feels, because it was once more a question of confidence. The confidence that comes from being first choice. Jean-Pierre Papin, who withdrew from the Naples match, clearly demoralised by the failure to qualify for the United States, has been shabbily treated at Milan.

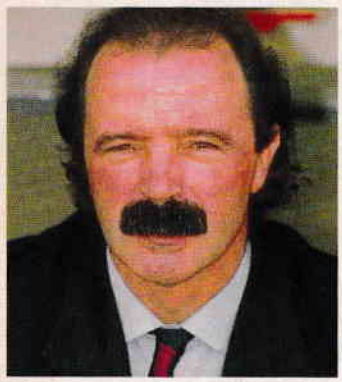
You might say that it was all largely his own fault, that greed may have taken him there when, at least at that time, he was sailing along quite happily with Marseille and making plenty of money.

The irony is that the far less gifted Marcel Desailly, his French international and ex-Marseille colleague, should effectively have kept him out of the Milan team, as one foreigner too many, so Papin returns to France, his tail between his legs.

And Paris Saint German? Flourish they may, but they are not making many friends. Too hard and defensive an approach it's alleged.

Artur Jorge, the Portugese manager cares not. Results are all. Surprising for the man who once inspired FC Porto to glory in the 1987 Champions Cup Final.

Developing . . . Monaco's Djorkaeff (right).



Defensive . . . PSG coach Artur Jorge.

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	31	19	10	2	42	15	48
Marseille	31	16	10	5	45	26	42
Auxerre	31	15	8	8	42	20	38
Nantes	31	13	11	7	36	21	37
Bordeaux	31	15	7	9	38	25	37
Montpellier	31	12	11	8	32	28	35
Cannes	31	12	11	8	40	38	35
Lyon	31	13	7	11	29	30	33
Monaco	31	11	10	10	44	32	32
Lens	31	10	12	9	32	29	32
St Etienne	31	10	11	10	31	27	31
Strasbourg	31	9	13	9	35	35	31
Sochaux	31	9	11	11	32	35	29
Metz	31	9	10	12	24	28	28
Caen	31	10	5	16	21	45	25
Le Havre	31	5	14	12	23	36	24
Lille	31	5	13	13	30	42	22
Martigues	31	5	13	13	32	48	23
Toulouse	31	2	13	15	19	47	19
Angers	31	3	12	16	26	47	18

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

WEEKEND

PARIS SG 0
LYON 0. Att: 23,000.

BORDEAUX 1 (Santos 8)
MARSEILLE 0. Att: 30,000.

LENS 1 (Wallemme 67)
AUXERRE 1 (Baticle 38). Att: 20,974.

NANTES 2 (J-M. Ferri 26, N'Doram 41)
ANGERS 1 (Gehra 88). Att: 17,570.

CANNES 2 (Madar 40, Priou 54)
MONTPELLIER 0. Att: 5,000.

MONACO 2 (Scifo 15, Thuram 83)
SOCHAUX 0. Att: 2,500.

ST ETIENNE 2 (Wohlfarth 1, Dieng 13 og)
LILLE 1 (Bonalair 71). Att: 9,786.

MARTIGUES 0
STRASBOURG 3 (Paillard 5, Keller 59, 79). Att: 2,000.

LE HAVRE 0
METZ 1 (Eyraud 89). Att: 5,693.

TOULOUSE 0
CAEN 1 (Dangbeto 16). Att: 5,319.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

WEEKEND

AUXERRE 0
PARIS SG 0. Att: 14,000.

METZ 0
MARSEILLE 0. Att: 17,607.

CAEN 0
NANTES 0. Att: 16,379.

LILLE 1 (Frandsen 53 pen)
BORDEAUX 1 (Andersson 27 og). Att: 5,756.

MONTPELLIER 3 (Der Zakarian 31, Divert 64, S. Blanc 66)
TOULOUSE 1 (Bancarel 89). Att: 6,863.

LYON 2 (Debbah 8, Maurice 76)
CANNES 2 (Banin 28, Ferhaoui 60). Att: 15,000.

ANGERS 1 (Discolle 17)
MONACO 1 (Djorkaeff 58). Att: 6,503.

MARTIGUES 1 (Bouquet 30)
LENS 2 (Omam-Biyik 59 pen, R. Boli 89). Att: 3,000.

STRASBOURG 2 (Hughes 14, Keller 73)
ST ETIENNE 0. Att: 12,345.

SOCHAUX 4 (Weber 7, Vos 37, Caveglia 44, 84)
LE HAVRE 2 (Marquet 71 pen, Tiehi 77). Att: 2,571.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

WEEKEND

PARIS SG 2 (Rai 46, Guerin 47)
MARTIGUES 2 (Bouquet 35, Tholot 85). Att: 29,000.

MARSEILLE 3 (Anderson 21, 40, Voller 68)
LILLE 2 (Assadourian 43, B. Boli (51 og). Att: 22,000.

NANTES 1 (Ouedec 77)
LYON 0. Att: 15,000.

BORDEAUX 2 (Saille 9, Vercruysse 35)
STRASBOURG 0. Att: 17,816.

TOULOUSE 0
AUXERRE 0. Att:5,283.

CANNES 2 (Priou 39, Durix 40)
METZ 0. Att: 4,500.

MONACO 3 (Djorkaeff 10, Klinsmann 40, Scifo 72)
CAEN 0. Att: 2,000.

LENS 2 (Laigle 42, R. Boli 67)
SOCHAUX 0. Att: 16,462.

ST ETIENNE 2 (Wohlfarth 41, 89)
MONTPELLIER 0. Att: 11,981.

LE HAVRE 2 (Tiehi 45, 72)
ANGERS 1 (Daury 19). Att: 5,687.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 13

WEEKEND

LENS 1 (Omam-Biyik 56 pen)
PARIS SG 2 (Ricardo 52, Llacer 81). Att: 41,000.

STRASBOURG 1 (Keller 3)
MARSEILLE 1 (Anderson 58). Att: 31,847.

AUXERRE 3 (Vahirua 55 pen, C. Martins 85, Saib 90)
LE HAVRE 0. Att: 7,500.

METZ 2 (N'Doram 41 og, Lang 84)
NANTES 0. Att: 7,152.

MONTPELLIER 1 (Rizzetto 14)
BORDEAUX 0. Att: 10,192.

MARTIGUES 4 (Mendy 4, Tholot 44, Collot 78, 86)
CANNES 0. At: 4,000.

LYON 1 (Amoros 24 pen)
MONACO 0. Att: 20,000.

CAEN 1 (Duboscq 61)
ST ETIENNE 0. Att: 17,784.

SOCHAUX 1 (Dieg 18 og)
LILLE 0. Att: 3,339.

ANGERS 0
TOULOUSE 0. Att: 3,896.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 20

WEEKEND

FRENCH CUP — 5TH RND

NANTES 1 (Ouedec 3)
BORDEAUX 0. Att: 18,000.

LENS 3 (R. Boli 35, Meyrieu 98, Fouzari 117 og)
CHARLEVILLE 1 (Sogue 89). Att: 12,281.

LAVAL 1 (Bouzaiene39)
MONTPELLIER 2 (Sanchez 60, 71). Att: 15,004.

MONACO 0
MARSEILLE 0. Att: 15,000.
Aet, Marseille won 4-3 on pens

VALENCIENNES 2 (Mangione 19, 45)
ALES 1 (Traore 35). Att: 4,464.

SETE 1 (Moureaux 22)
AUXERRE 4 (C. Martins 3, Baticle 17, 44, Rabarivony 75). Att: 10,000.

GUINCAMP 0
PARIS SG 1 (Weah 43). Att: 14,200.

CHATELLERAULT 0
RACING 92 1 (Morand 77). Att: 3,238.

AUSTRIA . . . . . .

Konrad the penalty king

THE toast of the country! That's Austria Salzburg, who reached the semi-finals of a European competition, the UEFA Cup, for the first time, by beating Eintracht Frankfurt.

That was the first time in 18 attempts that an Austrian team had eliminated German opposition.

Goalkeeper Otto Konrad (right) saved two shots in the deciding penalty shoot-out, and converted the final kick — just as, he says, he dreamed he would do.

Konrad is Austria's reigning Footballer of the Year, although national team manager Herbert Prohaska has only just acknowledged his class. He let in only nine goals in 22 League matches, and is now set for further honours at international level.

Austria Salzburg, also called Casino after their sponsor, have never won anything, having been championship runners-up three times and Cup finalists three times. But their Croatian team manager, Otto Baric, who has been in charge of 11 clubs, won the Austrian League five times and the Cup four times.

The club upset fans by moving their home tie with Frankfurt to Vienna, 190 miles away, because their ground has been restricted by UEFA to 8,500 spectators. Vienna's Ernst Happel Stadium had a capacity gate of 47,000, so the club's decision was fully vindicated.

The Salzburgers are making headlines in the League, too. They crushed champions FK Austria in Vienna by 4-0, Croatian Nikola Jurcevic contributing all four.

Admira Wacker appear to have the best chance of catching the leaders. Their 2-0 win over Wacker Innsbruck deepened the crisis in the Tyrol and put manager Horst Koppel under more pressure.

SWITZERLAND . . . .

A 55-year spell is ended

THE national team continued their preparations for the World Cup with a psychologically important 2-1 win in Budapest — their first success over Hungary for 55 years.

Despite the absence of top strikers Stephane Chapuisat and Adrian Knup, who were needed by their German clubs, and Thomas Bickel (injured), the Swiss gave further proof of their current high international standing. One defeat in 16 games is an enviable record.

The success of English team manager Roy Hodgson has persuaded FC Zurich to appoint his school-friend and compatriot, Bob Houghton (left), as team boss. Houghton, like Hodgson, had a profitable spell in Sweden with Malmo, taking them to League and Cup honours in the 1970s, and to a Champions Cup final.

Hodgson expressed disappointment over defender Regis Rothenbuhler's decision to quit football. He is only 23, has played for Neuchatel Xamax and Servette for eight years, and won 10 caps. "I have lost all motivation," he explained. Hodgson remarked: "I am flabbergasted. Rothenbuhler's departure is a great loss to Swiss football."

Grasshopper recovered from their unexpected 2-1 defeat by inconsistent champions Aarau and remain favourites for the title, not least on account of the splendid form shown by Brazilian striker Elber de Souza, on loan from Milan.

Great hopes rest on 19-year-old midfielder Murat Yakin, who could prove to be the discovery of the season.

Their main challengers, Sion, have the national side's complete defensive block and the country's second-best goalkeeper, Stephan Lehmann.

Sion also are the country's best-supported club, with an average of 6,400 fans per match.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

NORWAY . . . . . .

Building-up to a memorable season

AS the Olympic winter sports season is over and snow and ice have receded, footballers again attract the interest.

And what a season it promises to be! In addition to the World Cup, the national league seems to be full of interesting aspects and the fight for places in the US squad will be motivating many players.

All the clubs have spent the past couple of months on foreign grass, and some took part in a seven-day Nordic tournament in Cyprus.

The pre-season matches show that the title-chasers are most likely to be found among Rosenborg, Lillestrom, Start and Brann.

The Brann coach, Hallvard Thoresen, has had a year in charge and by now he should have built a platform for further development of the team.

Frank Strandli has come from Leeds on loan, to partner Trond Egil Soltvedt up front.

After a successful debut in England, Strandli never managed to fulfill manager Howard Wilkinson's faith in him. He says: "I was never given long enough in the side and as months passed I lost confidence. Since coming to Brann I've improved a lot and hope to prove that I'm worthy of being selected for the World Cup."

The signings of brothers Inge and Per Ove Ludvigsen from neighbours Fyllingen probably will prove to be a wise investment. Most Norwegian clubs were after them but Brann managed to secure these versatile brothers.

Icelandic goalkeeper Bjarni Siguardsson was a hero in Brann some seasons ago and, after a couple of years back in the Icelandic League, he is back, aiming to prove that he still is the same quality goalkeeper.

Start finished a disappointing ninth last season after having promised so much the previous year. Now they have bought Toto Dahlum back from Rosenborg and invested in another striker, Petter Belsvik.

Erik Myklund, Tommy Svindal Larsen and young Bent Christian Birkeland should be the most inventive midfield in the country, and Pal Lydersen is back from Arsenal, on loan.

Both Brann and Start have stronger squads this year and as the World Cup has forced the League programme to be played over a shorter period of time, both should benefit from strength in depth. Rosenborg and Lillestrom are always to be reckoned with at the top. Despite winning the title last season, Rosenborg were so disappointed when they were knocked out of the Champions Cup at the first hurdle. Success in Europe has been the club's primary ambition for years.

Back home . . . Brann's Frank Strandli.

The squad seem to be as a strong as last year, although a couple of players have left.

Stig Inge Bjornebye is back on loan from Liverpool and Harald Brattbakk has returned after a year with Bodo Glimt.

Oyvind Leonhardsen's injury on tour in the United States with Norway was less serious than feared, and he will be back for the start of the season.

Lillestrom have signed Stale Solbakken from Hamarkameratene, and have a major asset in striker Mons Ivar Mjelde. In pre-season matches Mjelde scored regularly, and he was in tremendous form when Lillestrom defeated Swedish clubs GAIS and Malmo.

National manager Egil Olsen is happy to meet England in a friendly at Wembley this month, followed by a new Nordic tournament in June, against Denmark and Sweden.

SIGURD ODEGAARD

HOLLAND .....

Yo-yo style

Big three face problems

HOLLAND are one of the most popular countries going to the United States for the World Cup (popular outside England, not inside) and among the top six favourites, but their own league is proceeding yo-yo style.

The trouble is that Holland produce incredible players and teams respected around the world, but the country is too small to produce the kind of competition to match that of the English and German Leagues.

So what happens to the Dutch top three — Ajax, Feyenoord and PSV?

Ajax lost three important games in a row during 10 days of agony. Being knocked out of the European Cup-Winners Cup by Parma, World Soccer's team of the year, is no disgrace. Neither is losing to Feyenoord in Rotterdam. But being knocked out of the Dutch FA Cup in the semi-final by little NEC Nijmegen is another story.

The Dutch top division is called the Premier and the Second Division is called the First. "Little NEC" come from the First, and now have to face Feyenoord, in their own Rotterdam Stadium, in the final.

Ajax are not finished. Louis van Gaal has agreed to stay as chief coach for another couple of years, and the club have two more ex-players — Heine Otto and Jan Olde Riekerink — as extra youth coaches.

Feyenoord also have not given up hope of winning the championship, but their thoughts go a lot further. They have to see that their stadium is renovated to the standards that make their own club, plus the Dutch FA, happy.

By current rates that is going to cost about £37million, but it will be worth their while.

On the football side, Wim Van Hanegem has signed a new contract that will keep him with the club for as long as he lives, and Geert Meijer, now his assistant, stays on, but as No. 1 coach and technical co-ordinator of the technical staff.

John van Loen (left), the international striker, has been given a semi-suspended sentence by the Dutch FA. He has been banned for three games, plus another one that will not come into effect unless he offends again within a year. He also has been fined by his club, believed to be around £10,000, for elbowing an opponent, in the last minute, and being sent off.

Van Loen can be a good player, and is popular off the field, but occasionally he blows his top on it. Feyenoord may well let him go at the end of the season.

Bill Maeyer, the new hard-line chairman of PSV, has listed several top players.

Van Breukelen has decided to retire, and Heintze, Koeman, Van Tiggelen, Van Aerle, Kieft, De Jong, Ellerman and Kalusha will be on their way soon.

Neither technical manager Frank Arnesen, nor chief coach Aad De Mos, is completely satisfied with Maeyer's actions, and some of the players have appealed to the union for help.

Arnesen and De Mos wanted to keep at least two of the "sacked" players.

ERIC NICHOLLS

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND.....

Heavy going for the kids

THE European Under-16 Championship is being played in the Republic of Ireland, with the home team opening against the Czech Republic at Tolka Park, Dublin, on April 26.

England and Portugal are the other teams in the Republic's group.

Ten grounds around Ireland are being used, with the final at the Royal Dublin Society grounds in Ballsbridge on May 8. The RDS is better known as a showjumping arena, but nowadays also doubles as the home ground of Shamrock Rovers.

The main concern for the FAI is the state of the pitches following the heavy rain that has fallen in recent months. But with a break and some work the grounds should be in good condition for the 16 teams.

The Republic will have new-style jerseys at the World Cup Finals. There's a return to plain green for the home jersey, but the away strip, which will be worn against Mexico, is white with vertical green stripes. This game will be The Republic's 300th full international since 1926.

The Republic's European Championship game against Liechtenstein in June next year is likely to be staged in Zurich.

The stadium in Vaduz is too small to hold all the travelling supporters.

Derry City are becoming experts in the League Cup competition. They beat Shelbourne in this season's final, their fourth win in six years.

SEAN CREEDON

SWEDEN .....

Schwarz in line for a record

MIDFIELDER Stefan Schwarz (right) could become the most expensive Swedish player ever if his proposed move from Portugal's Benfica to Germany's Bayer Leverkusen goes through.

At the time of writing the clubs were still discussing the fee. Leverkusen wanted £2.8million, substantially more than Napoli forked out for Schwarz's former Benfica team-mate, Jonas Thern, in 1992.

Schwarz, whose father is from Germany, played for Leverkusen's youth side in 1987, but then decided to go back to Sweden and joined Malmo. He was later wanted by Bayern Munich, but the move fell through because the player refused to obtain a German passport.

Thern also could be on his way, from crisis-torn Napoli, although his compatriot and former coach at Benfica, Sven-Goran Eriksson, has denied Sampdoria's interest.

Sweden's success in the Joe Robbie Cup raised expectations for the World Cup. Coach Tommy Svensson says: "I am fairly pleased with the way we played, but still only 10 or 12 of these players will be in my final squad."

Svensson was delighted by defender Joachim Bjorklund's recovery from a knee injury. "Jocke proved that he can keep up with the tempo," he said.

Striker Kennet Andersson, now playing in France, for Lille, also is back in contention.

On a sadder note, Gothenburg utility player Magnus Erlingmark was injured and will be out for a month.

AIK Stockholm's cheeky bid to take Anders Limpar on loan was turned down by Arsenal, and Limpar then joined Everton for £1.6million.

PENTTI HIETANEN

FINLAND .....

A warmer outlook

PLAYERS from hotter parts of the world are currently in fashion in Finnish football.

Kuusysi Lahti, spurred on by the success of the Brazilians at FC Jazz, are testing two players from that country. No names can be released until the trials are over.

TPS Turku are hiring two Mexicans, Jaime Paniaqua and Victor Manias, and Rovaniemi's English coach, Keith Armstrong, has been looking at two Zambian forwards, David Mutale and Zeddy Sailet.

The drama of the close season, the transfer of TPV Tampere's two influential Russians, Oleg Ivanov and Valery Popovich, to local rivals Ilves, has now ended. Ilves have got their men after months of wrangling over their registration rights.

FC Haka won the Finnish indoor championships, defeating TPS 5-1 in the final. Two of the goals were scored by Mike Belfield, recently acquired from Kuusysi.

HJK Helsinki have sold full-back Petri Helin to Denmark's Ikast, have former international Pasi Rautiainen making a comeback in midfield, and bought Vasily Karatayev from Rovaniemi.

TURKEY . . . . . .

Gala in line for a double

AN UNEXPECTED 2-0 home defeat by Trabzonspor upset Galatasaray's surge towards the Turkish title, but they still led by three points with eight games left.

Several players are looking exhausted because of the club's demanding schedule. Despite the disappointments in the Champions Cup Gala will take a lot of catching. They are in line for a domestic double, having reached the Cup final by beating Kocaelispor 3-2 on aggregate.

Gala coach Rainer Hollman has been under fire and there was talk of Kalli Feldkamp, the man he succeeded, being recalled. Feldkamp, however, was not interested, on health grounds.

Fenerbahce, in second place, lost a chance to catch up when losing 2-1 to Gala, and have had a problem with Nigerian striker Uche. He wanted to help his country in the African Nations Cup. Fenerbahce claimed to have first option on his services, and have fined him heavily for going to the tournament.

On a happier note, the remarkably determined Ridvan Dilman has made yet another comeback from injury. He had not played for 17 weeks and had been advised to find another club, but he battled back to fitness and eventually was recalled to the team, against Sariyer.

The result was a 3-1 win, with Ridvan scoring one goal and earning a penalty for Aykut. The third goal came from Bulent, his 18th of the season.

Trabzonspor are third, but 10 points behind Gala and just ahead of Besiktas on goal difference, with Shota having scored six goals in four games.

Trabzon were credited with a win by the Turkish FA investigation into the match at Samsunspor, which was abandoned after 83 minutes when home players harassed the referee. Samsun's ground has been closed for one match.

Besiktas, now coached by Christoph Daum, have won three League games in a row and have reached the Cup final by beating Trabzon 4-2 on aggregate.

Another foreign manager, however, has resigned. Peruvian Augusto Palacios left Genclerbirligi after a 5-0 defeat by Fenerbahce . . . his third defeat in his three games in charge.

HASAN CEMALI

MALTA . . . . . .

Carmel shines as Ray bows out

"VIVA MALTA" was the chant on the lips of a euphoric crowd after Malta created one of the major upsets in international soccer by beating World Cup finalists Belgium in a farewell international for midfielder Ray Vella.

"Belgian exile" Carmel Busuttil (above), who plays regular First Division football with Genk, took Vella's majestic 36th-minute through pass to slot in and crown an unforgettable display by the Maltese side, at times so superior.

Busuttil's return proved again that his presence makes Malta tick: this was his 19th goal in a Malta shirt.

For Vella, his 66th and last international appearance was one to remember.

Diplomatic coach Pietro Ghedin commented that after such a win, Malta should keep their feet firmly to the ground.

"I want to show that even Malta can do something in international football," he said. "We are no Germany, England or Belgium, but must demonstrate our existence."

On the domestic scene, still unbeaten Hamrun Spartans threw the title issue wide open, when they easily beat leaders Hibernians 3-0, to end their unbeaten record.

Goals from Sultana, Paiber and Brincat catapulted Spartans back into serious contention for the title. Hamrun are now on 18 points — two points behind the leaders. Valletta, 3-1 winners over Rabat Ajax, also have 18.

Champions Floriana had a 2-0 victory over rock-bottom Mqabba and are one point adrift of the leaders.

Mqabba still have only one point, but at least they scored — after an incredible spell of 987 minutes — in a 5-1 defeat against Zurrieq.

DOMENICO AQUILINA

BELGIUM . . . . . .

Stephane's holiday may be delayed

A TIGHT finish is in sight after Anderlecht lost their convincing lead over Club Brugge.

At the start of December Anderlecht looked unstoppable, having dropped only four points in 16 games. Everything changed for them after they had lost 5-3 to Werder Bremen in the Champions League, when the Germans scored five times in the last half-hour.

That upset Anderlecht's confidence and momentum, and Brugge lost no time in making up their arrears. Although Anderlecht have shown signs of recapturing their old rhythm, with Luc Nilis in tremendous form — he scored three against Ekeren and three against Charleroi inside a week — only a point separated the top two with six games to play.

Much of the Brugge power stems from midfielder Stephane Van der Heyden, who has suddenly emerged to be in contention for a place in Belgium's World Cup squad.

He had booked a summer holiday in Tanzania, but that may well have to go on hold until after the tournament. The squad for the US almost certainly will include two more "foreigners" in Italian Dante Brogno and Croatian Josip Weber, who have now become Belgian citizens

Two other imported players, Italian-born Enzo Scifo and Brazilian-born Luis Oliveria, had been in the squad for some time, but Oliveria's place in the US now looks doubtful after a magazine quoted him as accusing coach Paul Van Himst of racism.

Apologies and claims that "I didn't understand the questions of a French-speaking journalist" may not be enough.

JAN-HERMEN DE BRUIJN

GREECE . . . . . .

Alketas checks his plugs

THE Greek national team's first match since qualifying for the World Cup this summer ended in a 0-0 draw with Poland in Salonica, watched by a crowd of 20,000.

"This was a good start for a difficult road ahead," said coach Alketas Panagoulias.

"These exhibition matches will help us find out how our 'engine' is running — if it's losing oil, and from where, if it needs spark plugs and which spark plugs, or if it needs a general overhaul.

"We hope to have this engine in tune by the time we go to the US."

Greece have another five friendlies before meeting Argentina in the World Cup first round.

"In these matches we will be testing the players we already have in the squad, as well as some new faces," Panagoulias added.

In the First Division, AEK Athens continue to dominate, with a seven-point lead over Olympiakos and Panathinaikos, who are both under new coaches.

Juan Ramon Rotsa, a former player with Panathinaikos, took over his former club, and Olympiakos are coached by Nikos Alefantos.

Alexis Alexandris of AEK shares the leading scorer spot with Kristof Warzycha of Panathinaikos on 21 goals.

Warzycha scored four to lead Panathinaikos to an 8-0 rout of Doxa.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

PORTUGAL . . . . .

Growing tighter at the top

FOOTBALL is quite a strange form of activity. A few months ago, Sporting Lisbon, though first in the League, decided to dismiss Bobby Robson and to replace him with national manager Carlos Queiroz.

This seemed odd and the peace at the great Lisbon club was threatened. Queiroz is nothing like as popular in Portugal as Robson.

Porto, the champions, brought Tomislav Ivic back as coach. He had produced some good results a few years ago, but his time in Portuguese football was clearly exhausted.

Experiment followed experiment, and the team seldom showed the kind of football that people had been used to. Ivic had to go. And Robson arrived.

Since all this, Sporting Lisbon have improved their fighting spirit and have been mounting a strong chase.

Porto, for their part, have been playing a form of attacking football more in harmony with their traditions. So the decision of Sporting's president Cintra to free Robson turned out to be beneficial to both clubs.

Benfica are not producing the football we saw in the first months of the championship. Some players are tired just when they should be at their peak.

At the moment of writing, the Lisbon Eagles have a two-point advantage over Sporting and five over Porto.

The showdown is approaching, with Das Antas Stadium the setting for Porto versus Sporting Lisbon.

Then Benfica have to visit Alvalade for the final derby with Sporting and everything should be made clear. Benfica do not have an easy programme. Their run in the Cup-winners Cup, and visits to Saigueiros and Boavista may be tricky.

The club always have lived on the brink of disaster and triumph. A strange form of activity, indeed.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

LUXEMBOURG . . . . .

MATCH 75 has come and gone, and still Luxembourg's national team await their first victory.

A goal by Thomas Wolff was not enough to avert a narrow 2-1 home defeat by Morocco, building up towards the World Cup finals this summer.

Future friendlies against Israel and Finland will end the same way unless national coach Paul Phillip can lift his squad's morale.

The National Division title play-offs are now under way, between six clubs — Grevenmacher, Avenir Beggen, Dudelange, Jeunesse d'Esch, Union Luxembourg and Aris Bonnevoie.

Wiltz and Swift Hesperange are the leaders in the two promotion/relegation groups.

TIM BRICE

BULGARIA . . . . .

Something lacking at the top

WORLD CUP preparations are hampered by a dearth of suitable opposition, or did others who qualified from Europe beat Dimitar Penev and the BFU to the punch?

Plans for matches in Africa seem to have come to nothing, a date with Israel also still has to be agreed, and coach Penev may have to settle for some games in the Near East.

Friendlies with Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates and two with Qatar are on the latest agenda, but what foreign clubs who employ Bulgarian "Legionaries" will think is easy to guess.

If Penev can learn something from seeing home-based players perform in Arabia so be it, but the authorities are looking a trifle inept in arranging to play in that part of the world.

Romania and Greece do not seem to have experienced the same difficulty, and in Sofia fans wait to hear who will provide the farewell opposition before the squad leave for America.

The championship looks a foregone conclusion. Levski's consecutive home wins over Slavia, 4-1, and Beroe, 2-0, gave them a 12-point advantage over CSKA, who stumbled to a goalless draw at Pirin.

Nasko Sirakov, a Levski veteran contender for a place in Penev's squad, took his season's League goals tally to 17, and he and his colleagues do not need many more wins to be sure of the title.

CSKA are the likely runners-up largely thanks to Andonov's 13 goals, while at the bottom Black Sea are 11 points adrift of safety and Spartak Varna six points behind ailing Beroe.

All in all, the second half of the season is proving dull for spectators, with no competitive European club or international football to savour and a feeling that the parent body still have to get their act together following the fiasco of the would-be contract with the Spanish firm, Stoichkov-Jafa, to sign big Western European opposition for practice matches.

BOB VAUGHAN

CZECH REPUBLIC . . . . . .

Newcomers make a fair impact

DUSAN UHRIN is gradually stepping up his preparations for the European Championship qualifying competition.

The "first ever" international as the Czech Republic, with Jan Stejskal back in goal for Footballer of the Year Petr Kouba (right), is to be followed by a visit to Switzerland, provisionally to Zurich, and another to Dublin.

A game with Israel also is planned if a date can be agreed but that probably will be that on the international front. The League season will not finish until as late as the second week of June.

"Federal" football also is at an end following the Under-21 team's elimination from the European Championship by Italy. A 3-0 defeat in Salerno gave the last "Representation of Czechs and Slovaks" little chance of turning things round in the return.

In contrast some "local" international football brought the newly-formed Czech and Slovak Under-17 squads into action, drawing 1-1 and 0-0. The Under-16s also played twice, the Slovaks winning the first encounter 2-1, the Czechs the second 1-0.

Team manger Josef Krejci felt his team should have done better in both games, given all the chances they created.

Professional activity has been restricted at home to the title, with all the European representatives eliminated in the autumn.

Sparta still lead, but Ceske Budejovice are not giving up and much may be decided when the champions visit Southern Bohemia.

At least interest is being maintained in the first season of the separate Czech-Moravian league, notably by the success of the clubs brought in to make a total of 16.

Only one, Viktoria Zizhov, are in relegation trouble, and results such as the draw at Cheb should keep them in the top flight with the such as Liberec, Zlin and Drnovice.

Spectators remain in short supply, with even Sparta averaging only just over 6,000.

FC Boby Brno, despite their current 13th placing, continue to attract more than double that.

Dukla had a crowd of 800 for a draw with Zlin. They are having another wretched season, and with half the championship gone they still had not won.

Relegation looks certain and perhaps the whole future of the club is in doubt.

UKRAINE . . . . . .

Exiles still eager for places

NATIONAL coach Oleg Basilevich is hoping that foreign-based players will be available to help Ukraine's European Championship efforts.

He has used only home-based men up to now, but says: "There are no passports in football, and if players performing abroad are better than their compatriots, then we'll find space for them in the squad."

The men he has in mind include Oleg Protasov of Olympiakos, Alexander Zavarov, now playing for Nancy in France, and Genadi Litovchenko, who is with Admira Wacker in Austria.

All three have declared their willingness to play for their country.

Kiev Dynamo seem set to retain the championship, having gone five points clear. A 4-2 win over Tavria Simferopol was their 20th successive unbeaten home game.

Shaktyor are in second place, but lost a chance to make up some ground when beaten by Dniepr, who won 2-1 despite having skipper Diriyavka sent off shortly after they had fallen behind to a goal by Atelkin.

Mikhailenko equalised early in the second half, and Polunin hit Dniepr's winner from 25 yards.

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY

GEORGIA . . . . . .

Ban upsets Chivadze

POLITICAL instability in Georgia is not helping the new national team's preparations for the 1996 European Championship qualifiers.

UEFA will not allow matches to be played in Georgia at present, and team manager Alexander Chivadze — formerly a top defender with Tblisi Dynamo and the Soviet Union — said: "We are hoping that the improving situation will result in the ban being lifted in time for our first match, scheduled for September 7 against Moldova."

This will be the first official international in Georgian history, and Chivadze adds: "Germany, Bulgaria and Wales are the obvious favourites to qualify from Group Seven, but we aim to battle for the second place."

The build-up included a four-nation tournament in Malta, where the Georgians finished second after losing 1-0 to Slovenia, the eventual winners, and beating Malta 1-0 and Tunisia 2-0.

Chivadze used five foreign-based players in his squad. They were Kinkladze (1993 Player of the Year) and Shelia of Germany's Saarbrucken, and three based in Cyprus — Kudonov (Apoel), Kizilashvili (Omonia) and Ketsbaia (Anorthosis).

Georgia also beat the Israeli Olympic team 3-1, but lost 2-0 to the full national side. The Arveladze brothers, Sheta and Archil, who play for Trabzonspor in Turkey, were in the team, with Gija Guruli of French club Le Havre.

On the home scene, the top ten clubs will qualify for the final championship round, which goes on until June.

VLADIMIR KALINKOVICH

ISRAEL . . . . . .

Old friends fall out

LEAGUE and Cup competition is hotting up, with the same pair — Maccabi Haifa and Maccabi Tel Aviv — involved on both fronts.

A 5-0 home win by Maccabi Haifa opened a three-point lead and gave the club the right to stage the third and final League meeting with Maccabi Tel Aviv. This time the visitors did much better and forced a 1-1 draw, after Haifa's Ukranian defender, Roman Petz, had broken a leg.

Gloria Speigel, the Haifa manager, was outraged and had harsh words to say to Avraham Grant, formerly No. 2 to Speigel at Hapoel Petah Tikva and now manager of Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Subsequent results mean that Haifa's lead has now been cut to one point, although they are still unbeaten all season — a run of 29 games.

To add to the excitement, the draw for the fourth round of the Cup will bring another direct confrontation between Haifa and Tel Aviv, again in Haifa.

AVI MELLER

Dallas Cup 1994 . . . *update*

IT was Real Madrid all the way in the 1994 American Airlines Dallas Cup's Under-19 Super Group. The Spaniards — who won the same tournament last year — averaged six goals a game as they reeled off six consecutive victories.

With a hat-trick from Felix Prieto, the tournament's outstanding player, Real capped their performance with an 8-0 romp over Germany's FC Kaiserslautern in the final.

Dubbed the unofficial World U-19 club championship, the group consisted of 20 teams including Argentina's River Plate, Italy's Torino, Scotland's Celtic, England's Tottenham Hotspur, and Mexico's UNAM.

ALBANIA . . . . . .

Father and son doing well

THE Haxhiu family are doing well in Albanian soccer at present.

Mexhit Haxhiu is coach of the Under-16s who have qualified for the European Championship finals, to be played in Ireland. And his son Gert is top scorer in the League, with nine goals for Flamurtari.

The Under-16s beat Liechtenstein 1-0 and Malta 2-0 in the qualifying tournament for the finals, to top their group and qualify.

Haxhiu senior, chosen several times for the full international team in the 1960s, said: "I'm very satisfied with the overall performance. My priority now is to continue the same way."

Gert Haxhiu's goals have helped Flamurtari to the leadership after 20 games, and there has been considerable improvement in their results. They narrowly avoided relegation last season, with only 27 points, but already have taken 28.

Teuta are second, a point behind, after four successive wins — one of them 2-0 at home to Flamurtari. The gate of 15,000 was the highest in the country this season. SK Tirana, in third place, owe a great deal to midfielder Indrit Fortuzi, only just 21 but already the winner of nine caps. Fortuzi began with Dinamo and made his debut at 18, with coach Neptun Bajko describing him as "a born athlete". He moved across the city to Sk Tirana — formerly 17 Nentori — last year, and is their big hope for a return to their former position as the club to beat.

GEZIM NUSHI

LATVIA . . . . . .

A dozen chase a title

THE third Latvian championship in the post-Soviet period is now under way with 12 teams, two more than last season. The Latvian Cup has a record number of 45 teams, with the final on June 22.

National coach Janis Gilis is now deliberating over his team for a friendly match against Danish club Aab Aalborg on May 4. At the beginning of June Malta's national team will visit Latvia, and the 13th Baltic Cup will be played in August, in Lithuania. Three national teams traditionally take part — Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

The Latvian national team then start European Championship preliminaries on September 7, with a match against the Republic of Ireland.

Simultaneously the Under-21 team start the qualifiers for the 1996 Olympics. Their coach is Alexandr Starkov, a forward with Daugava between 1982 and 1986. Latvian coaches lack experience of international football and coaching. Former England manager Graham Taylor is one of those called in to offer advice.

VALERY KARPOUSHKIN

RUSSIA . . . . . .

Spartak in front despite problems at the back

MOSCOW SPARTAK have fared badly in the European Champions League, but they are still beyond reach in domestic competition.

Only a goalkeeping weakness is preventing them from running away with the title which they won by a seven-point margin last time. Even if opponents cash in on mistakes Vladimir Bestchastnykh and Co seem capable of scoring more.

The coach, Oleg Romantsev, has been trying to find a replacement since Stanislav Cherchesov's move to Dynamo Dresden last season. He brought in a Ukranian, Alexander ***Pomozoon (right)***, but he has been unable to give the defence the confidence that they had when Cherchesov stood between the posts.

So Romantsev is still seeking, having turned down the chance to pay $500,000 for Zaur Khapov of Spartak Vladikavkaz.

Spartak, however, must start spending soon. Their only big buy so far was defender Vladislav Ternavski from Niva of Ternpil, and several of their squad are likely to leave during the summer.

Good performances during the World Cup would help the top men to better contracts abroad, but the dispute between the players and the national coach, Pavel Sadyrin, is still causing ill feeling.

Some fans want Sadyrin out, some take his side and blame the rebels for being unpatriotic. Whatever the outcome, the dispute has done nothing to improve Russia's already meagre chances of success.

VICTOR GUSEV

TABLES

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Teuta	22	11	8	3	29	9	30
Flamurtari	22	11	7	4	25	13	29
Tirana	22	11	6	5	33	14	28
Vllaznia	22	10	5	7	27	21	25
Dinamo	22	5	13	3	20	20	23
Elbasani	22	9	5	8	20	22	23
Partizani	22	6	10	6	23	20	22
Albpetrol	22	6	8	8	23	26	20
Lushnja	22	6	7	9	19	25	19
Besa	22	6	7	9	18	30	19
Laci	22	6	6	10	24	31	18
Beselidhja	22	7	4	11	21	29	18
Apollonia	22	5	8	9	15	23	18
Sopoti	22	5	6	11	14	29	16

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	21	17	3	1	56	9	54
CSKA	22	13	2	7	40	19	41
Botev	22	12	5	5	39	23	41
Shoumen	22	19	6	6	39	29	36
Lok. Plovdiv	21	9	4	8	31	27	31
Slavia	21	8	7	6	27	26	31
Lokomotiv GO	21	8	5	8	20	32	29
Lok. Sofia	22	8	3	11	33	28	27
Etur	22	6	9	7	27	25	27
Pirin	22	7	6	9	25	27	27
Dobroudja	21	6	7	6	28	33	25
Chernomorets	21	7	4	10	24	29	25
Beroe	21	6	5	10	20	30	23
Spartak Varna	22	4	3	15	14	50	15
Cherno More	21	3	5	13	16	51	14

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hajduk Split	20	14	3	3	52	22	31
Varteks	20	12	6	2	36	13	30
Zagreb	20	11	7	2	40	22	29
Croatia Zagreb	20	9	7	4	47	17	25
Rijeka	20	7	10	3	24	16	24
Segesta Sisak	20	9	6	5	30	24	24
Cibalia Vink	20	7	9	4	25	14	23
Belisce	20	8	5	7	34	25	21
Inker Zapresic	20	8	5	7	25	24	21
Istra Pola	20	8	5	7	17	16	21
Osijek	20	6	6	8	30	37	18
Zardar	20	3	12	5	12	21	18
Primorac	20	5	6	9	18	31	16
Dubrava	20	4	6	10	18	32	14
Dubrovnik	20	4	6	10	15	34	14
Pazinka Pisino	20	3	7	10	21	39	13
Sibenik	20	3	6	11	11	28	12
Radnik VG	20	2	2	16	11	51	6

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta Prague	17	11	4	2	39	11	26
Slavia Prague	16	9	5	2	32	14	23
Ceske Budejovice	16	8	7	1	19	12	23
Banik Ostrava	17	8	5	4	28	13	21
Slovan Liberec	16	7	6	3	20	16	20
Viktoria Pizen	17	6	6	5	21	17	18
Svit Zlin	17	7	4	6	22	20	18
Union Cheb	17	7	4	6	16	20	18
Sigma Olomouc	17	7	3	7	25	19	17
Drnovice	17	7	3	7	22	27	17
Bohemians	16	7	2	7	20	30	16
Viktoria Zizkov	16	4	6	6	23	17	14
FC Boby Brno	16	5	3	8	22	24	13
Hradec Kralove	17	4	3	10	14	26	11
Vitkovice	17	2	4	11	16	37	8

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bekescsaba	20	14	3	3	47	14	31
Vac	20	12	5	3	40	20	29
Ferencvaros	19	12	4	3	34	16	28
Csepel	20	11	4	5	27	29	26
Kispest	20	10	5	5	42	27	25
Raba	20	10	4	6	37	23	24
Ujpest	20	8	6	6	28	23	22
Debrecen	20	8	6	6	25	22	22
Parmalat	20	5	7	8	22	31	17
Sopron	20	5	6	9	23	32	16
Siofok	20	4	6	10	21	34	14
Pecs	20	4	6	10	17	30	40
BVSC	20	4	6	10	21	41	14
Vasas	20	4	5	11	23	31	13
MTK	19	4	5	10	22	38	13
Haladas	20	2	6	11	16	34	10

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gornik Zabrze	20	10	9	1	28	17	29
Legia Warsaw*	21	11	8	2	42	17	27
LKS Lodz*	21	12	6	3	38	14	27
GKS Katowice	20	10	6	34	30	20	26
Ruch Chorzow	21	9	7	5	29	23	25
Pogon Szczecin	21	5	13	3	20	16	23
Lech Poznan	21	8	6	7	22	18	22
Zaglebie Lubin	21	6	9	6	28	30	21
Wartz Poznan	21	8	5	8	20	22	21
Hutnik Krakow	20	6	9	5	18	20	21
Widzew Lodz	21	5	10	6	23	27	20
Miliarder Pniewy	21	7	5	9	29	23	19
Stal Mielec	21	5	7	9	19	31	17
Stal Stalowa Wola	21	4	8	9	15	24	16
Wisla Krakow*	21	4	9	8	22	29	14
Zawisza Bydgoszcz	21	3	8	10	23	37	14
Polonia Warsaw	21	3	8	10	20	37	14
Siarka Tamobrzeg	21	3	5	13	17	38	11

** Legia, LKS Lodz and Wisla Krakow penalised three points.*

MALTA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hibernians	12	9	2	1	26	7	20
Floriana	12	8	3	1	17	3	19
Valletta	12	8	2	2	28	9	18
Hamrun Spartans	12	6	6	0	19	4	18
Sliema Wanderers	12	4	3	5	10	10	11
Zurrieq	12	4	2	6	12	18	10
Birkirkara	12	5	0	7	14	21	10
St Andrews	12	3	1	8	11	22	7
Rabat Ajax	12	1	4	7	7	26	6
Mqabba	12	0	1	11	1	25	1

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua Bucharest	29	18	8	3	46	15	44
Dinamo Bucharest	29	15	6	8	60	34	36
Univ Craiova	29	14	6	7	58	36	36
Petrolul Ploiesti	29	12	8	9	30	25	32
Gloria Bistrita	29	14	3	12	43	37	31
Progresul	29	13	4	12	41	31	30
Inter Sibiu	29	11	8	10	36	35	30
Farul Constanta	29	11	7	11	33	32	29
Brasov	29	12	5	12	30	39	29
Rapid Bucharest	29	11	6	12	27	30	28
Otelul Galati	29	11	5	13	32	38	27
UT Arad	29	9	8	12	26	39	26
Ceahlaul	29	9	8	12	24	37	26
Univ. Cluj	29	8	9	12	31	39	25
Timisoara	29	10	5	14	33	43	25
Cralova	29	7	10	12	19	28	24
Sportul	29	9	6	14	24	38	24
Dacia Unirea	29	8	6	15	28	43	22

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak Moscow	4	4	0	0	12	4	8
Torpedo Moscow	5	3	1	1	6	2	7
Kamaz	5	3	0	2	11	4	6
Sptk Vladikavkaz	3	2	0	1	4	8	4
Dynamo Moscow	4	2	2	0	4	1	6
Lok. Nizhni Novgorod	4	2	1	1	3	2	5
Uralmash	5	2	1	2	5	4	2
Lok. Moscow	5	2	1	2	5	7	5
Tekstilshik	5	2	1	2	3	5	5
Dyn. Stavropol	5	1	3	1	4	4	4
CSKA	4	2	0	2	2	3	4
Rotor	5	1	2	2	3	3	4
Wings of Soviets	5	1	2	2	4	5	4
Zhemchuzhina	5	1	1	3	6	8	3
Lada	5	0	2	3	1	5	2
Dynamo Gazovik	5	0	1	4	1	9	1

SLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan Bratislava	19	15	3	1	42	14	33
Inter	19	11	2	6	43	25	24
Dunajska Streda	19	9	4	6	35	24	22
Ziilina	19	8	5	6	31	20	21
FC Kosice	19	7	5	7	20	26	19
Tatran Presov	19	6	6	7	21	25	18
Spartak Trnava	19	5	7	7	17	22	17
Nitra	19	7	2	10	21	22	16
Banska Bystrita	19	6	4	9	20	29	16
Prievidza	19	5	4	10	20	31	14
Humenne	19	4	6	9	17	30	14
Lok. Kosice	19	4	6	9	17	36	14

SLOVENIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpija Lubljiana	17	13	3	1	49	10	29
Mura MS	17	12	3	2	34	10	27
Branik Maribor	17	9	6	2	26	13	24
Publikum	16	8	7	1	28	12	23
Koper	17	8	6	3	24	17	22
Zivila Nakio	17	9	2	6	23	21	20
Isola	17	7	4	6	32	24	18
Potrosnik Belt	17	7	3	7	23	23	17
HIT Gorica	15	5	5	5	17	25	15
Optimizem	15	5	3	7	14	22	13
Rudar Velenje	17	4	5	8	18	31	13
AM Cosmos	17	4	4	9	17	30	12
Mavrica	16	3	4	9	18	29	10
Primorje	17	3	4	10	17	29	10
Istragas	17	1	6	10	9	30	8
Krka Novot	17	1	3	13	7	30	5

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria Wien	23	16	1	6	47	26	33
Salzburg	23	13	6	4	29	9	32
Admira Wacker	23	11	7	5	31	24	29
FC Tirol	23	10	7	6	31	22	27
Rapid Wien	23	7	8	8	22	25	22
Vorwarts	23	7	7	9	32	27	21
VfB Modling	23	6	9	8	19	28	21
Sturm Graz	23	7	5	11	24	32	19
St Polten	23	5	4	14	20	37	14
Sportclub	23	2	8	13	13	38	12

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	28	19	6	3	68	29	44
Club Brugge	28	16	11	1	41	15	43
Seraing	28	13	11	4	44	22	37
Antwerp	28	12	11	5	39	30	35
Charleroi	28	15	4	9	49	40	34
Standard Liege	28	11	9	8	37	18	31
Oostende	28	8	14	6	36	33	30
Mechelen	28	7	14	7	30	32	28
Lommel	28	9	9	10	34	41	27
Ekeren	28	9	8	11	40	40	26
Cercle Bruges	28	8	9	11	42	51	25
Beveren	28	7	10	11	32	35	24
Liege	28	7	10	11	33	46	24
Lierse	28	6	11	11	25	34	23
RWDM	28	7	8	13	28	38	22
Gent	28	6	10	12	37	50	22
Waregem	28	4	7	17	26	52	15
Genk	28	3	8	17	31	66	14

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	26	21	2	3	67	19	44
Feyenoord	28	15	11	2	48	21	41
PSV Eindhoven	28	13	10	5	46	27	36
Roda JC	28	15	5	8	48	28	35
NAC Breda	27	13	7	7	52	35	33
Vitesse Arnhem	28	15	3	10	57	32	33
FC Twente	28	12	9	7	46	31	33
Willem II	28	12	6	10	42	35	30
MVV	29	10	8	11	39	48	28
Sparta	29	10	7	11	47	47	27
GA Eagles	29	10	6	13	39	44	26
FC Utrecht	29	9	6	14	36	55	24
FC Volendam	28	10	3	15	37	46	23
Heerenveen	27	6	9	12	24	50	21
VVV	28	6	9	13	23	50	21
Groningen	27	6	6	15	31	55	18
RKC	28	4	7	17	28	55	15
Cambuur	28	4	6	18	22	53	14

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cork City	27	15	7	2	51	28	52
Shamrock Rovers	27	16	3	8	49	27	51
Galway Utd	27	12	7	8	39	32	43
Shelbourne	26	10	9	7	34	29	39
Derry City	27	10	9	8	29	26	39
Bohemians	28	10	8	10	30	28	38

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaghan	28	10	7	11	34	34	37
Dundalk	27	8	12	7	29	22	36
St Patrick's	28	8	11	9	27	29	35
Drogheda Utd	28	7	5	16	25	52	26
Cobh Ramblers	28	6	7	15	23	38	25
Limerick	27	5	9	13	18	43	24

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sion	7	2	4	1	9	8	24
Grasshopper	7	3	1	3	14	11	23
Servette	7	4	2	1	15	9	23
Aarau	7	3	3	1	11	7	20
Lausanne	7	3	1	3	11	10	19
Lugano	7	2	3	2	8	6	16
Young Boys	7	0	4	3	4	13	17
Lucerne	7	1	2	4	8	15	15

CYPRUS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anorthosis	20	13	7	0	45	12	46
Apollon	20	14	3	3	51	20	45
Omonia	20	13	3	4	63	25	42
Apoel	20	13	3	4	50	19	42
Ethnikos	20	13	1	6	35	30	40
AEL	20	10	4	6	29	27	34
Salamina	20	6	7	7	22	22	25
Paralimni	20	6	7	7	21	23	25
Pezoporikos	20	7	4	9	27	31	25
Olympiakos	20	6	3	11	27	38	21
EPA	20	5	2	13	22	40	17
Aradippu	20	4	4	12	16	32	16
Evagoras	20	2	5	13	10	36	11
Apep	20	1	1	18	15	67	0

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK Athens	31	23	3	5	55	24	72
Panathinaikos	31	30	5	6	78	31	65
Olympiakos	31	18	11	2	60	24	65
Aris	31	16	9	6	51	31	57
PAOK	31	13	9	9	43	34	48
OFI Crete	31	13	6	12	51	36	45
Iraklis	31	11	9	11	47	41	43
Levadiakos	31	11	8	12	36	37	41
Xanthi	31	11	8	12	54	57	41
Athinaikos	31	11	6	14	33	44	39
Larissa	31	10	8	13	40	50	38
Panionics	31	10	7	14	43	50	37
Apollon	31	8	12	11	26	38	36
Doxa Drama	31	10	5	16	34	60	35
Edessaikos	31	9	6	16	37	54	33
Kalamaria	31	8	8	15	39	56	32
Panachaiki	31	7	10	14	34	55	31
Naoussa	31	4	2	25	35	74	14

ISRAEL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maccabi Haifa	28	21	7	0	69	17	70
Maccabi Tel Aviv	28	21	4	3	62	23	67
Hapoel BS	28	15	6	7	43	28	51
Beitar Jerusalem	28	15	5	8	54	40	50
Hapoel Tel Aviv	28	11	4	13	38	43	37
Maccabi Natanya	28	10	6	12	49	52	36
Bnei Yehuda	28	10	4	14	35	43	34
Zafririm Holon	28	8	10	10	33	44	34
Maccabi PT	28	8	9	11	25	32	33
Hapoel PT	28	8	8	12	35	37	32
Maccabi Her	28	8	7	13	28	35	31
Hapoel Kfar	28	6	7	15	24	43	25
Ironi Ashdod	28	6	6	16	37	44	24
Hapoel Haifa	28	3	9	16	19	64	18

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	25	18	6	1	58	19	42
Sporting Lisbon	25	18	4	3	49	14	40
FC Porto	25	15	7	3	46	15	37
Boavista	25	13	3	9	36	24	29
Maritimo	25	10	8	7	34	28	28
Guimaraes	25	10	7	8	23	20	27
Salgueiros	25	11	2	12	36	36	24
Farense	25	10	4	11	33	38	24
Gil Vicente	25	8	8	9	23	38	24
Amadora	25	7	9	9	26	26	23
Belenenses	25	9	4	12	27	39	22
Uniao	25	7	7	11	26	34	21
Beira Mar	25	7	7	11	21	25	21
Setubal	25	8	4	13	39	36	20
Pacos Ferreira	25	5	9	11	22	33	19
Braga	25	6	7	12	20	31	19
Famalicao	25	6	5	14	19	56	17
Estoril	25	3	7	15	14	40	13

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	24	18	3	3	55	23	57
Fenerbahce	24	16	6	2	49	23	54
Trabzonspor	24	14	5	5	49	20	47
Besiktas	24	14	5	5	46	21	47
Samsunspor	24	11	5	8	41	36	38
Genclerbirligi	24	11	4	9	44	37	37
Kocaelispor	24	10	5	9	35	37	35
Bursaspor	24	8	7	9	23	26	31
Kayserispor	24	8	5	11	28	39	29
Gaziantepspor	24	8	4	12	41	43	28
Altay	24	6	6	12	23	33	24
Ankaragucu	24	6	5	13	28	45	23
Sariyer	24	5	7	12	21	36	22
Karsiyaka	24	6	4	14	15	32	22
Zeytinburnuspor	24	5	6	13	24	40	21
DC Karabukspor	24	4	7	13	23	54	19

WORLD CUP USA94 COUNTDOWN

OUR INDISPENSABLE GUIDE TO THE 15TH WORLD CUP FINALS TOURNAMENT CONTINUES WITH PROFILES OF MOROCCO, NIGERIA, NORWAY, THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, ROMANIA AND RUSSIA, PLUS THREE OF THE GOALKEEPERS INVOLVED — TONY MEOLA, BORISLAV MIKHAILOV AND GIANLUCA PAGLIUCA.

LATEST FROM THE US

BY PAUL GARDNER

Fools' rules? Or crucial changes?

APART from the semi-pro stature, the United States Interregional Soccer League — USISL — do not do things by halves.

There are 72 teams from all over the US, in eight divisions. And when it comes to rule changes . . . the USISL will introduce EIGHT when they start their 1994 season.

It's all above board and FIFA sanctioned — the new rules are, in fact, experiments. The USISL Commissioner, Portuguese-born Francisco Marcos, has made it very clear that he welcomes the chance to try out some new rules: "For too long in soccer, the punishment has not fitted the crime. We want to increase the punishment so that players will know it's not worth committing the crime."

But the real impetus for all the changes comes from another league; the Major League Soccer, MLS. A phantom league at the moment, one that does not exist, but is in the process of being put together by a group headed by Alan Rothenberg — who also happens to be the man running the World Cup, and the President of the USSF

MLS — due to start in April 1995 — will be the pro league that FIFA have decreed shall follow the staging of the World Cup.

Getting American fans to attend pro soccer games in large numbers has never been easy. So a major priority of MLS is to ensure that the game on the field is exciting and action-packed. How better to ensure that than by bringing in some pro-offence rule changes? And what better method of seeing whether the changes work than having the USISL to try them out first?

Rothenberg has said: "The USISL is a Godsend." What makes it so useful as a rules laboratory are those eight separate divisions. In 1994 each division will be playing with a different set of rules. There is very little inter-divisional play, so confusion over which set of rules is in use will not arise until the latter stage of the season, when the play-offs begin. At that stage, says Marcos, they will decide on one set of rules to be followed by the nine remaining teams through to the end.

All this sounds as though the crazy Americans are running riot with fatuous gimmicks, but in fact, as Rothenberg has pointed out, "There's not a single proposal here that we [i.e. the Americans] invented. Some of them come from FIFA itself."

Most controversially, the goals will be bigger. In the USISL's Southwest Division they will be 8'6" high by 28' feet wide — giving the goalkeeper an extra six inches in height to look after, as well as another four feet on the width. In the Southeast Division, the goals will be 8'6" by 25'6". The other six divisions play with regular-sized goals.

Then there's an attempt to make foul-prone individual players, and whole teams, pay a price. This one was suggested by Marco ***Van Basten (right),*** who has suffered more than his share of fouls. Current FIFA rules talk about a yellow card for "persistent" fouling, but the definition of "persistent" varies.

The USISL have put a number on it. In the Midwest and Atlantic Divisions, any player who commits five fouls (these are the physical fouls, plus handball) will be shown the blue card. Which means he's off, but may be replaced. Any more players on the same team who rack up five fouls will be ejected — but with no replacement.

For team fouls, the number is seven. For every seventh foul (physical or handball) that a team commits, there is a punishment. In the South Central and Atlantic Divisions, that punishment will be a running shoot-out.

The running shoot-out also will be used as an extra punishment after a player has been dismissed for a professional foul. It is an attempt, says Marcos, to recreate the conditions of the breakaway.

In the Southeast and Pacific Divisions, every seventh team foul will be punished with a sort of extended penalty kick. Just like a normal penalty, except that the ball is placed on the penalty arc, 22 yards from the goal.

Encroachment will be countered, it is hoped, by handing out yellow cards, and then forcing the wall to back off to 15 yards — that's for the Southwest, South Central and Pacific Divisions.

Kick-ins will be used in the Southeast and Atlantic Divisions — or rather, a team will have the option to take a throw or a kick when the ball goes out of play.

There also is some playing around with corner kicks. When a defender plays the ball over the goal-line within the penalty area, the attacking team gets a short corner, taken from the point where the penalty area line crosses the goal line, while the field marking for a normal corner kick will be enlarged to a three-yard radius quarter circle.

And so to time-wasting. In the most widespread experiment, five of the USISL's divisions will use a timekeeper, who will stop the clock whenever the ball is dead. The idea is to get 60 minutes of real playing time.

All USISL games are played to a result, with overtime and then a tiebreaker. In seven of the divisions, the running shoot-out is used. In the Northeast Division, ties will be broken by counting corner kicks.

Perhaps the biggest surprise in this menu of alterations is that the offside rule is left untouched. Even more surprising when you know that one of the people working on the changes was former Wales international Phil Woosnam, one-time NASL Commissioner, inventor and staunch proponent of the 35-yard offside line. Apparently, FIFA nixed any offside changes. They are more interested in getting referees and linesmen to call the current rules correctly.

"No doubt some of these changes will be cast aside," said Rothenberg. "They are only experiments. But we're hoping we can open up the game, make it more exciting and entertaining.

"The changes that don't make sense will be dropped. But the ones that do make sense, well, I feel that it won't be long before the international community backs us in making those changes."

When the USISL season finishes in August, the USSF and the MLS experts will assemble to study the statistics and the tapes and the impressions of the new rules. Then they will decide which, if any, of them should be part of the first MLS season.

A season that looks slightly vague at the moment, because the league have no teams, and therefore no stadiums, no players, no coaches.

First things first. Soccer is all about business and television these days. So the MLS have a snappy logo. And a television contract.

Or rather a television agreement. *ESPN* and *ESPN2*, two cable networks devoted to sports, have agreed to a minimum three-year deal with MLS.

WORLD CUP FINALS RECORDS

MOROCCO
Finals appearances: 2 (1970, 1986).
Best performance: 2nd round (1986).
Biggest win: 3-1 v Portugal (1986).
Biggest defeat: 3-0 v Peru (1970).
Record: P7 W1 D3 L3 F5 A8

NIGERIA
First appearance in finals.

NORWAY
Finals appearances: 1 (1938).
Best performance: 1st round (1938).
Biggest win: not won.
Biggest defeat: 2-1 v Italy (1938).
Record: P1 W0 D0 L1 F1 A2

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
Finals appearances: 1 (1990).
Best performance: quarter-finals (1990).
Biggest win: not won.
Biggest defeat: 1-0 v Italy (1990).
Record: P5 W0 D4 L1 F2 A3

ROMANIA
Finals appearances: 5 (1930-38, 1970, 1990).
Best performance: 2nd round (1990).
Biggest win: 3-1 v Peru (1930).
Biggest defeat: 4-0 v Uruguay (1930).
Record: P12 W3 D3 L6 F16 A20

RUSSIA
(As Soviet Union)
Finals appearances: 7 (1958-70, 1982-90).
Best performance: semi-finalists 1966.
Biggest win: 6-0 v Hungary (1986).
Biggest defeat: 4-3 v Belgium (1986).
Record: P31 W15 D6 L10 F53 A34

MOROCCO

The king of the cartwheel . . . Lahcen Abrami in action for Morocco (below).

Lions with little hope

Second-round place will be a success

BY MARK GLEESON

MOROCCO are in the World Cup finals for the third time, equalling Cameroon's African record, but with probably their weakest team ever.

This is proved by the constant tinkering that school-teacher coach Abdellah Blinda has done since taking over the job as coach to the squad — known as the Lions of the Atlas, after the mountain range in the north of their country.

Blinda, as opposed to his controversial predecessor Abdelkhalek Louzani, is intent on building a team made up mainly of players based in Europe.

The international careers of the likes of Mustapha El Haddaoui, Nacer Abdellah and Hassan Nader have been resurrected, and a whole new generation of European-based players with links to the motherland has been uncovered.

The best is midfielder Mustapha Hadji, who opted to play for a country he had not been to since he was a toddler, instead of the French Under-21 team who wanted him for their run-in toward the European Championship.

Hadji was man of the match on his debut against Zambia in Casablanca, when the Lions won their decisive qualifying game.

Others such as Karim Fradin of Niort in France and Yassine Abdellaoui, who plays for Willem II Tilburg in Holland, have not made the splash they had hoped for, and probably will not get a trip to the United States this summer.

Unlike the other 23 finalists, Morocco will have spent the preparation period ahead of the World Cup finals trying to build a new team rather than preparing a side already moulded in the qualifiers.

That does not stand them in good stead, hence the great satisfaction in North Africa when the draw put them in with Belgium, Holland and Saudi Arabia.

Morocco fancy their chances of reaching the second round just by virtue of a handsome victory over the Saudis, who are con-

WorldCupUSA**94**

'The coach will have spent the preparation period ahead of the finals trying to build a new team, rather than preparing a side already moulded in the qualifiers'

sidered far inferior to any of the Arab-speaking countries in Africa.

There is not much hope of success against the two European teams, but if Morocco can keep the margin of defeat down and then win against Saudi Arabia, they could still go to the next stage as one of the four best third-place finishers.

That is the most the team can hope for after qualification from an African tournament full of surprises.

Morocco started well enough with a win over an Ethiopian team hit by political defections en route to Casablanca.

They also beat Benin away before being held at home by Tunisia. Then repeat victories in Ethiopia and at home to Benin allowed Morocco the luxury of being able to play for a draw in the return in Tunis to finish top of their group.

This they did, to find themselves pitted against Senegal and Zambia in the final round. Zambia lost 18 players in an air crash in April, two weeks after Morocco had made a stuttering start at home to Senegal, scoring the only goal in the final 10 minutes.

By the time they played their second match of the group, Zambia had formed a new squad, and won 2-1.

The only high point of the qualifiers came in July when Morocco took two away points with a 3-1 win over Senegal, and could secure qualification with a home win over Zambia in the last group match.

That was only the second game in charge for Blinda, and Morocco took a big chance with Hadji. But they won — with the support of the vocal crowd in Casablanca — and earned a place in the finals, as they had done in 1970 and 1986.

In Mexico eight years ago Morocco became the first African team to get past the first round, finishing top of a group including England, Poland and Portugal.

The sensational 3-1 win over the Portuguese was one of the most exciting matches at that tournament.

West Germany needed a late free-kick by Lothar Matthaus to knock them out in the second round, and the side returned home as heroes.

This time, that sort of achievement is far from feasible.

1994 WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

FIRST ROUND

GROUP F

BELGIUM
MOROCCO
HOLLAND
SAUDI ARABIA

19.06.94	Belgium v Morocco	Orlando
20.06.94	Holland v Saudi Arabia	Washington
25.06.94	Belgium v Holland	Orlando
25.06.94	Saudi Arabia v Morocco	New York
29.06.94	Morocco v Holland	Orlando
29.06.94	Belgium v Saudi Arabia	Washington

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

AFRICA
First Round
GROUP F

11.10.92	**Morocco** v Ethiopia	5-0
11.10.92	Tunisia v Benin	5-1
25.10.92	Ethiopia v Tunisia	0-0
25.10.92	Benin v **Morocco**	0-1
20.12.92	Tunisia v **Morocco**	1-1
20.12.92	Ethiopia v Benin	3-1
17.01.93	Ethiopia v **Morocco**	0-1
17.01.93	Benin v Tunisia	0-5
31.01.93	Tunisia v Ethiopia	3-0
31.01.93	**Morocco** v Benin	5-0
28.02.93	Benin v Ethiopia	1-0
28.02.93	**Morocco** v Tunisia	0-0

★ *Malawi withdrew, Benin replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	6	4	2	0	13	1	10
Tunisia	6	3	3	0	14	2	9
Ethiopia	6	1	1	4	3	11	3
Benin	6	1	0	5	3	19	2

Second Round
GROUP B

18.04.93	**Morocco** v Senegal	1-0
04.07.93	Zambia v **Morocco**	2-1
17.07.93	Senegal v **Morocco**	1-3
07.08.93	Senegal v Zambia	0-0
26.09.93	Zambia v Senegal	4-0
10.10.93	**Morocco** v Zambia	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	4	3	0	1	6	3	6
Zambia	4	2	1	1	6	2	5
Senegal	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

the COACH

Abdellah Ajri BLINDA. Aged 43. Appointed a month before Morocco's final World Cup qualifying match against Zambia and had only one warm-up match (3-0 v Mali) before the Lions beat Zambia 1-0 to qualify for the finals.

the SQUAD

Khalil AZMI (above). Goalkeeper. Aged 29 (born August 23, 1964) with 24 caps. Raja Casablanca. Took the place of injured former African Footballer of the Year Badou Zaki at 1992 African Nations Cup finals and has been a regular ever since.

Abdelkader EL BRAZI. Goalkeeper. Aged 29 (born November 15, 1964) with 7 caps. Royal Armed Forces. Only two appearances in the past two years, again Benin in a World Cup qualifier and a friendly against Algeria.

Nacer ABDELLAH. Defender. Aged 28 (born March 3, 1966) with 10 caps. Waregem (Bel). Belgian-born and cannot speak Arabic. Back with his club after they banished him from training this season.

Noureddine NAYBET (left). Defender. Aged 24 (born February 10, 1970) with 11 caps. FC Nantes (Fra). Exciting defender-cum-midfielder who has made a good impression since his move to France from Wydad.

Rachid AZZOUZI. Defender. Aged 24 (born January 10, 1970) with 9 caps. MSV Duisburg (Ger). Ignored for the qualifying campaign, but now back. Played at the 1992 African Nations Cup finals.

Lahcen ABRAMI. Defender. Aged 24 (born December 31, 1969) with 12 caps. Wydad Casablanca. Missed only two of Morocco's 10 qualifying matches. Won African Champions Cup and Afro-Asian Cup medals with his club, and played at the Barcelona Olympics.

Ahmed MASHABI. Defender. Aged 28 (born January 17, 1966) with 23 caps (2 goals). Kawbab Marrakesh. Helped his club to the title last year and was a regular in the World Cup qualifiers, including the decisive match against Zambia.

Abdelkarim EL HEDRIOUI. Defender. Aged 22 (born March 26, 1972) with 14 caps (2 goals). Royal Armed Forces. Made his debut against Tunisia and then played in six further qualifiers.

Tahar EL KHALEJ. Midfielder. Aged 25 (born June 16, 1968) with 18 caps (1 goal). Kawkab Marrakesh. Another member of the recent championship winning team. Scored in the qualifier against Benin in Casablanca.

Rachid DAOUDI. Midfielder. Aged 28 (born February 21, 1966) with 23 caps (5 goals). Wydad Casablanca. Flamboyant, and most effective in a wide attacking role. Probably one of the best African players not yet snapped up by a European club.

Mustapha EL HADDAOUI. Midfielder. Aged 32 (born JUly 28, 1961) with 53 caps (10 goals). Angers., France. Only surviving member of the team in the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico. Recalled for World Cup qualifiers against Senegal last April.

Mustapha HADJI. Midfielder. Aged 22 (born November 16, 1971) with two caps. Nancy (Fra). Made a sensational debut against Zambia in the decisive World Cup qualifier. Played his second match against Finland.

Radouane HAJRY. Midfielder. Aged 30 (born March 5, 1964) with 9 caps. Farense (Por). Recalled against Finland as Blinda experimented ahead of the finals.

Mustapha KHALIF. Midfielder. Aged 29 (born September 19, 1964) with 5 caps. Raja Casblanca. A double Cup-winner with his club but has not made much of an impression with his country.

Mohamed CHAOUCH. Attack. Aged 27 (born December 12, 1966) with 34 caps (10 goals). Nice (Fra). Having a fine season after recovering from a bad leg injury. Scored three goals in the World Cup qualifiers.

Abdelsalam LAGHRISSI. Attack. Aged 32 (born May 1, 1962) with 45 caps (15 goals). Wydad Casablanca. His goal put Morocco into the finals. Making a comeback in the national team after two seasons in the Gulf.

Youssef FERTOUT. Attack. Aged 23 (born July 7, 1970) with 14 caps (3 goals). Wydad Casablanca. Made six successive appearances as substitute for the side in 1993. Scored World Cup qualifying goals against Ethiopia and Senegal.

Abdelmajid BOUYBOUB. Attack. Aged 27 (born October 24, 1966) with 28 cap (8 goals). Wydad Casablanca. Very successful on the club scene, helping his club win the African Champions Cup.

Mohsen BOUHLAL. Attack. Aged 24 (born April 22, 1970) with 19 caps (3 goals). Royal Armed Forces. Intermittent squad member who played in defence at 1992 African Nations Cup finals.

Hassan NADER. Attack. Aged 28 (born July 8, 1965) with 14 caps (2 goals). Farense (Por). Regular scorer for his club, but has played only twice in past three years for his country.

NIGERIA

Outsiders from the top level

European experience is a bonus for Westerhof's squad

BY MARK GLEESON

AFRICA's most populous country make a much-belated World Cup finals debut this year, and have all the potential to cause a big splash on their first appearance at the party.

Nigeria have been a powerful force in international junior competitions, as well as in all African tournaments, but up to now they have been unable to translate that success into a place among the World Cup finalists.

Now they are going to the US, and if ever there was an African team that could go all the way to the decider this is it. They have acres more potential than the Cameroon team in Italy four years ago, who became the first team from the African continent to reach the quarter-finals.

Nigeria are able to call on a squad made up almost entirely of players competing at the top levels in Europe.

Competition for places is incredibly intense, and there is nothing as uncertain in international football as forecasting a Nigerian team selection.

The country is beset by administrative problems, intense pressure from a vocal popular press, and a penchant for the absurd. But, remarkably, controversial

Glee club . . . Nigerian players celebrate their first qualification for the World Cup finals.

Dutch-born coach Clemens Westerhof (right) has managed to retain one of the world's toughest coaching positions for close on five years, and has moulded a team capable of making Africa proud.

Nigeria owe a great deal to the clinical scoring skills of Rachidi Yekini, a giant forward with incredible speed off the mark and a powerful shot.

He is the focal point for the forceful game played by Westerhof's "Super Eagles" and certainly will command intense defensive attention at the finals.

Around him there are some of the bright names of European football, including such as Victor Ikpeba, Daniel Amokachi and Austin Okocha, all highly-rated in the European leagues and, despite their tender ages, with considerable experience.

Midfield is brimming with talent, not least the latest find in Nigeria's line-up — 19-year-old Sunday Oliseh from FC Liege. He is lanky and awkward, but tackles strongly and passes accurately.

Only in defence is there a question mark about Nigeria.

They always have had a weakness at right-back, and now have one in the centre, where captain Stephen Keshi is past his prime.

'Competition for places is incredibly intense, and there is nothing as uncertain as trying to forecast a Nigerian team selection'

Nigeria play a tough brand of soccer, using speed and strength to steamroller their way through.

That was certainly the case in the qualifiers, where they had to deal with some credible opponents before securing a place in the finals.

In their opening match, they crushed South Africa 4-0, and then disposed of the difficult Congo team on a near-unplayable pitch in Pointe-Noire.

In the second round they were up against Algeria and the African champions, Ivory Coast, but after a small hiccup in Abidjan they bulldozed their way to the finals. They beat both sides 4-1 in Lagos, where Nigeria have not lost for just over 10 years, and took the last point they needed in Algeria.

Their preparation ahead of the US trip has been sparse, with an experimental team taking part in a tournament in Thailand in January and one home friendly against Ghana, which ended in a 0-0 draw.

But a run to the final of the African Nations Cup in Tunisia gave them a chance to get together in conditions similar to the World Cup — an advantage no other country had ahead of the American adventure.

1994 WORLD CUP SCHEDULE
FIRST ROUND

GROUP D
ARGENTINA
GREECE
NIGERIA
BULGARIA

21.06.94	Argentina v Greece	Boston
21.06.94	Nigeria v Bulgaria	Dallas
25.06.94	Argentina v Nigeria	Boston
26.06.94	Bulgaria v Greece	Chicago
30.06.94	Greece v Nigeria	Boston
30.06.94	Argentina v Bulgaria	Dallas

HOW THEY QUALIFIED AFRICA

First Round
GROUP D

10.10.92	**Nigeria** v South Africa	4-0
25.10.92	South Africa v Congo	1-0
20.12.92	Congo v **Nigeria**	0-1
17.01.93	South Africa v **Nigeria**	0-0
31.01.93	Congo v South Africa	0-1
27.02.93	**Nigeria** v Congo	2-0

★ *Sao Tome e Principe withdrew, Libya withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	4	3	1	0	7	0	7
South Africa	4	2	1	1	2	4	5
Congo	4	0	0	4	0	5	0

Second Round
GROUP A

16.04.93	Algeria v Ivory Coast	1-1
02.05.93	Ivory Coast v **Nigeria**	2-1
03.07.93	**Nigeria** v Algeria	4-1
18.07.93	Ivory Coast v Algeria	1-0
25.09.93	**Nigeria** v Ivory Coast	4-1
08.10.93	Algeria v **Nigeria**	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	4	2	1	1	10	5	5
Ivory Coast	4	2	1	1	5	6	5
Algeria	4	0	2	2	3	7	2

the COACH

Clemens WESTERHOF. Aged 53. Controversial Dutch-born trainer who is alleged to have made big money out of transfers. Formerly coach of MVV Maastricht, Vitesse Arnhem and in his fifth year as Super Eagles coach. Almost certain to retire after the World Cup.

the SQUAD

Wilfred AGBONAVBARE. Goalkeeper. Aged 27 (born October 5, 1966) with 20 caps. Rayo Vallecano (Spa). Played in all four of Nigeria's second-round World Cup qualifiers last year after five years out of the team. Debut for Nigeria in 1983.

Peter RUFAI. Goalkeeper. Aged 30 (born August 24, 1963) with 34 caps (1 goal). Go Ahead Eagles (Hol). Surprise choice for the recent African Nations Cup. A 12-year veteran of the team but played intermittently. Big and agile, and scored with a penalty against Ethiopia last year.

Austin EGUAVOEN. Defender. Aged 28 (born August 18, 1965) with 43 caps. Kortrijk (Bel). Vice captain, and has been moved to right-back to fill a gap. Long-time regular, but spent much of the Belgian season under suspension.

Ben IROHA. Defender. Aged 24 (born November 29, 1969) with 11 caps (one goal). Vitesse Arnhem (Hol). Nuggety full-back recently transferred from the Ivory Coast. Played in all but two of Nigeria's qualifying matches.

Stephen KESHI. Defender. Aged 32 (born January 23, 1962) with 77 caps (two goals). No club. Captain known as "Big Boss". Expected to be included as reward for long service, although now long past his best. Sacked by Belgian club RWD Molenbeek in January after returning late from holiday.

Uche OKAFOR. Defender. Aged 28 (born January 15, 1966) with 20 caps. No club. Defender who covered for injured Keshi at the Nations Cup. Has not played for a club for two seasons, after brief spells in Belgium and Morocco.

Uche OKECHUKWU. Defender. Aged 26 (born September 27, 1967) with 35 caps. Fenerbahce (Tur). Recently sold by Danish club Brondby, where he won a championship medal. Has played in last three African Nations Cup finals.

Nduka UGBADE. Defender. Aged 24 (born September 6, 1969) with 15 caps (1 goal). No club. Seeking to become the first player to compete at World Cup finals at Under-17, Under-20 and full level. Previously with Castellon and Real Aviles in Spain.

Efan EKOKU. Midfielder. Aged 26 (born June 8, 1967) with one cap. Norwich City (Eng). Born in Manchester, but brought up for some part of his childhood in Nigeria. First call-up for the Nations Cup in Tunisia.

Emeka EZEUGO. Midfielder. Aged 28 (born 16 December, 1965) with 20 caps. Honved (Hun). Left out of the Nations Cup squad but expected to be included for the USA.

Victor IKPEBA. Midfielder. Aged 20 (born June 12, 1973) with seven caps. Monaco (Fra). Has had a splendid season in France and in the European Champions League, but not a first choice in the Nigerian team despite his high profile in Europe.

Austin OKOCHA. Midfielder. Aged 20 (born August 14, 1973) with seven caps (1 goal). Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger). Played in the Under-20 World Cup in Australia last year and made senior debut in World Cup qualifying defeat against Ivory Coast.

Thompson OLIHA. Midfielder. Aged 25 (born October 4, 1968) with 24 caps (3 goals). No club. Released by Ivorian club Africa Sports after helping them to two successive African Cup-winners Cup finals. Engine room of the Nigerian team and one of Africa's most underrated players.

Sunday OLISEH. Midfielder. Aged 19 (born September 14, 1974) with six caps. FC Liege (Bel). Brilliant young player with bright future. Debut in the 6-0 defeat of Ethiopia in an African Nations qualifier last year.

Daniel AMOKACHI. Attack. Aged 21 (born September 30, 1972) with 18 caps (2 goals). Club Brugge (Bel). Top goalscorer for his club, and made a big impression in the European Champions League.

Emannuel AMUNIKE. Attack. Aged 23 (born December 25, 1970) with seven caps. Zamalek (Egy). Won African Champions Cup and African Super Cup medal inside two months in December and January. International debut last year.

Finidi GEORGE. Attack. Aged 23 (born April 15, 1971) with 14 caps (2 goals). Ajax Amsterdam (Hol). Made a big impression at the start of the season after transferring from Calabar Sharks, but faded a little in the second half.

Samson SIASIA. Attack. Aged 26 (born August 14, 1967) with 27 caps (8 goals). Nantes (Fra). Played in two African Nations Cup finals as well as two World Cup qualifying campaigns. Former member of Nigeria's Olympic team.

Rachidi YEKINI. Attack. Aged 30 (born October 23, 1963) with 51 caps (23 goals). Vitoria Setubal (Por). Top scorer in Portugal this season, and African Footballer of the Year. Nigeria's key man at the World Cup.

NORWAY

Springboard to success

Egil the odd leads a revolution

KEIR RADNEDGE

NORWAY go to the World Cup finals for only the second time in their history with sounds of grudging admiration still in their ears. They seized the initiative in their World Cup qualifying group and left Holland and England to scrap for second place.

The Norwegian style of football hardly promises great entertainment in the United States but their presence in the finals does demonstrate the progress that has been made over the past decade since Norway embraced professionalism and a professional approach to the game's administration.

The first signs of progress came in 1986 when the Federation decided to promote the game more aggressively and study ways to attract bigger domestic crowds.

After experimenting with various competitive regulations they settled on the three-points-for-a-win system which had been pioneered in England and is gradually spreading throughout the game (including now, of course, the forthcoming World Cup finals).

Soccer was introduced to Norway by students in Oslo in the 1880s and the game quickly took root between the two leading cities, Oslo and Bergen.

Norway's greatest achievement remains the winning of the bronze medal at the 1936 Berlin Olympics where they caused an historic upset, beating their German hosts in front of an enraged Adolf Hitler before losing to ultimate Olympic champions Italy in the semi-final.

Two years later much the same Norwegian team entered the World

Valiant Vikings . . . skipper Rune Bratseth (centre) leads the celebrations after the win over England.

Cup finals — for the first time —and were beaten by Italy in the first round in France.

Throughout the early post-war years Norway were ranked among the minnows, a step up from Finland but below the Danes and well below neighbouring Sweden in the international league table.

Eventually the infectious confidence and enthusiasm of 1980s national manager Tor Roste Fossen convinced the top players that they should raise their sights.

Roste Fossen was followed by former Swedish international Tord Grip and then by Ingvar Stadheim. He guided Norway to their historic 2-1 World Cup qualifying victory over England in Oslo in September, 1981, and to a creditable 1-1 draw in a friendly against visiting Brazil.

This new wave of ambition was reflected in various schemes to enliven the domestic League championship. In 1987 draws were banned: teams level after 90 minutes resorted to a penalty shoot-out to contest an extra point.

That was too revolutionary to gain approval and was scrapped after one season in favour of the three-points-for-a-win formula.

The 1990s provided a remarkable springboard for Norwegian football.

The team were now managed by Egil Olsen, a Marxist-Leninist who claims to have made more money out of poker than he has out of football, and spends hours studying his own players and opponents on video.

Under this unusual style of management, Norway dominated World Cup qualifying Group Two from the outset, putting 10 goals past San Marino in their opening match, then defeating highly-rated Holland 2-1 and drawing 1-1 with England at Wembley.

By the time the group was two months old Norway had run up seven points and 15 goals. A 2-0 win over Graham Taylor's disorganised squad in Oslo meant that they never needed to look back, and victory in Poland in October 1993 left them sure of qualification with a game in hand.

'The style hardly promises great entertainment in the US but their presence demonstrates the progress that has been made over the past decade'

Ironically, a significant number of Norway's players were earning their living simultaneously in England's Premier League. These include Tottenham goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt, Liverpool defender Stig Inge Bjornbye, Oldham's Gunnar Halle and Tore Pedersen — though the latter will miss the World Cup because of knee damage — and forwards Jostein Flo (Sheffield United), Lars Bohinen (Nottingham Forest) and Jan Aage Fjortoft (Swindon).

Olsen joked: "Perhaps this is a secret plan of Graham Taylor's to undermine us!

"Our players go to England, are worn out by the number of matches and the pace of the football and then might come back to us too tired to give their best in the World Cup. It could be a serious problem."

The joke, of course, was on Taylor.

1994 WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

FIRST ROUND

GROUP E

ITALY
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
NORWAY
MEXICO

18.06.94	Italy v Rep. of Ireland	New York
19.06.94	Norway v Mexico	Washington
23.06.94	Italy v Norway	New York
24.06.94	Mexico v Rep. of Ireland	Orlando
28.06.94	Rep. of Ireland v Norway	New York
28.06.94	Italy v Mexico	Washington

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
EUROPE
GROUP 2

09.09.92	**Norway** v San Marino	10-0
23.09.92	**Norway** v Holland	2-1
23.09.92	Poland v Turkey	1-0
07.10.92	San Marino v **Norway**	0-2
14.10.92	England v **Norway**	1-1
14.10.92	Holland v Poland	2-2
28.10.92	Turkey v San Marino	4-1
18.11.92	England v Turkey	4-0
16.12.92	Turkey v Holland	1-3
17.02.93	England v San Marino	6-0
24.02.93	Holland v Turkey	3-1
10.03.93	San Marino v Turkey	0-0
24.03.93	Holland v San Marino	6-0
31.03.93	Turkey v England	0-2
28.04.93	England v Holland	2-2
28.04.93	**Norway** v Turkey	3-1
28.04.93	Poland v San Marino	1-0
19.05.93	San Marino v Poland	0-3
29.05.93	Poland v England	1-1
02.06.93	**Norway** v England	2-0
09.06.93	Holland v **Norway**	0-0
08.09.93	England v Poland	3-0
22.09.93	**Norway** v Poland	1-0
22.09.93	San Marino v Holland	0-7
13.10.93	Holland v England	2-0
13.10.93	Poland v **Norway**	0-3
27.10.93	Turkey v Poland	2-1
10.11.93	Turkey v **Norway**	2-1
17.11.93	San Marino v England	1-7
17.11.93	Poland v Holland	1-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORWAY	10	7	2	1	25	5	16
HOLLAND	10	6	3	1	29	9	15
England	10	5	3	2	26	9	13
Poland	10	3	2	5	10	15	8
Turkey	10	3	1	6	11	19	7
San Marino	10	0	1	9	2	46	1

the COACH

Egil OLSEN. Aged 51 (April 22, 1942). Played for Ostsiden in his home town of Fredrikstad, then for Sarpsborg, Valerengen and Frigg, and won 16 caps in the 1960s. After retiring he became a lecturer in physical education while coaching part-time. He brought Lyn Oslo back up from the Third Division, then managed the national Under-21 side, the Olympic team and the Under-21s again. In October, 1990, he was appointed senior national manager.

the SQUAD

Erik THORSTVEDT. Goalkeeper. Aged 31 (born October 28, 1962) with 81 caps. Tottenham (Eng). Returning to duty after a knee operation in time to be Norway's World Cup first choice. Thorstvedt began with Eik, switched to Viking Stavanger, then spent a year on the subs' bench in Germany with Borussia Monchengladbach after failing a trial with QPR. He persuaded Borussia to let him go back to Scandinavia and Sweden's IFK Gothenburg signed him. Thorstvedt transferred to Tottenham in December 1988 for £400,000.

Frode GRODAS. Goalkeeper. Aged 29 (born October 24, 1964) with 11 caps. Lillestrom. Has finally pushed out experienced Ola By Rise and Einar Rossbach as first reserve.

Henning BERG. Defender. Aged 24 (born September 1, 1969) with 12 caps. Blackburn (Eng) — who signed him last year from Lillestrom. Berg played centre-back originally for Lillestrom but is now at right-back.

Stig Inge BJORNEBYE. Left-back. Aged 24 (born December 11, 1969) with 32 caps (one goal). Liverpool (Eng) Signed him last spring from Rosenborg Trondheim. Until last year he was employed on the Football Federation's office staff.

Ronny JOHNSEN. Defender/midfielder. Aged 24 (born June 10, 1969) with nine caps (one goal). Lyn Oslo. One of the promising younger Norwegian generation.

Roger NILSEN. Defender. Aged 24 (born August 8, 1969) with 18 caps (three goals). Sheffield United (Eng). Played previously for Viking. Can play left-back, centre-back or in midfield, from which position he scored twice in the 10-goal thrashing of San Marino.

Rune BRATSETH. Sweeper. Aged 33 (born March 19, 1961) with 53 caps (four goals). Werder Bremen (Ger). Norway's most complete footballer of all time, the defensive commander who helped Werder Bremen to win the 1992 Cup-winners Cup. Began with Rosenborg, moving to Germany in December, 1986. Made his Norway debut in a 2-1 win in Grenada in 1986.

Gunnar HALLE. Midfield. Aged 26 (born August 11, 1967) with 42 caps (four goals). Oldham (Eng). Club prefer him in midfield, Norway at full-back. Made his national debut at 20 and transferred to England in February, 1991, but missed most of the 1991-92 season because of injury.

Kare INGEBRIGTSEN. Midfield. Aged 28 (born November 11, 1965) with 20 caps (one goal). Manchester City (Eng) — another sale from Rosenborg. Small but spirited. Renowned as one of Norway's fittest footballers. He scored on his Norway debut in a 3-1 win in Tunisia in 1990.

Oyvind LEONHARDSEN. Midfield. Aged 23 (born August 17, 1970) with 27 caps (eight goals). Rosenborg. Remains the most expensive player in Norwegian domestic history, having cost Rosenborg £90,000 from Molde. Was discovered in the Third Division with his hometown team, Clausenengen. Made his debut in a 6-1 win over Cameroon in Oslo in 1990.

Jan Ove PEDERSEN. Midfield. Aged 25 (born November 12, 1968) with 17 caps (one goal). Lillestrom. Prefers playing on the right in midfield and made his international debut at 19 in a 0-0 draw against Sweden in 1988.

Jahn Ivar JAKOBSEN. Midfield. Aged 28 (born November 8, 1965) with 40 caps (six goals). Lierse (Bel). Made national debut in a 1-1 draw against Bulgaria in 1988. A key member of the Rosenborg's 1990 League and Cup double side. He earned a transfer to Young Boys Bern.

Erik MYKLAND. Midfield. Aged 22 (born July 21, 1971) with 22 caps (two goals). Start Kristiansand. Outstanding dribbler and crowd-pleaser but should score more goals. International debut in a 3-1 win over Tunisia in Tunis in November, 1990.

Lars BOHINEN. Midfield or forward. Aged 24 (born September 8, 1969) with 25 caps (seven goals). Nottingham Forest (Eng). Signed from Lillestrom last autumn but took until the recent 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace to score his first league goal.

Kjetil REKDAL. Midfield. Aged 25 (born November 6, 1968) with 29 caps (eight goals). Lierse (Bel). Penalty expert who tried his luck with Borussia Mg when 20, but could not adapt to life or football in western Germany and left for Belgium.

Jan Aage FJORTOFT. Forward. Aged 27 (born January 10, 1967) with 46 caps (15 goals). Swindon Town (Eng). Has scored prolifically since trying to arrange a loan home to Lillestrom because he was so unhappy with his poor form in the FA Premiership. Fjortoft has been a fixture in the national squad for much of the past six years. Began with Lillestrom, and joined Austria's Rapid Vienna at the start of 1990.

Jostein FLO. Centre forward. Aged 29 (born October 3, 1964) with 19 caps (seven goals). Sheffield United (Eng) — signed last year from Sogndal. Tall, old-fashioned "British" type. His success since his arrival in Sheffield made him the Norwegian Footballer of the Year.

Goran SORLOTH. Attack. Aged 26 (born July 16, 1967) with 52 caps (15 goals). Rosenborg. Versatility has been his problem. Either managers never let him settle into one position, or they kept him as a jack-of-all-trades substitute. A regular member of the national squad for seven years. Had a brief time in Germany with Borussia Mg between two spells in Trondheim.

THE MEN WHO MATTER

CONTINUING THE *WORLD SOCCER* COUNTDOWN TO THE 1994 WORLD CUP FINALS WITH PROFILES OF THREE OF THE TOP STOPPERS, FROM ONE OF THE FAVOURITES, ITALY, FROM ONE OF THE DARK HORSES, BULGARIA, AND FROM THE HOST COUNTRY, THE UNITED STATES.

GIANLUCA **PAGLIUCA**

No.1... at last

AFTER Sampdoria had beaten AS Roma 1-0 at the Olympic Stadium in Rome at the end of February, journalists gathered around Dutchman Ruud Gullit for his comments on the game.

Gullit had been an injury-enforced spectator and his analysis was succint: "Sampdoria took home both points today thanks to our goalkeeper, Gianluca Pagliuca.

"I've always believed that in a tough championship like this, a good goalkeeper is worth an extra seven or eight points to his team. Pagliuca is that kind of keeper, you saw today why he is Italy's first choice."

Now 27 years old, 16-times capped Gianluca Pagliuca, along with figures such as captain Franco Baresi or left-back Paolo Maldini, is one of the cast-iron selection certainties of Italy's World Cup side.

In the demanding context of the Italian championship, he is, over the arc of a season, the best goalkeeper around.

He is a good reader of the game, quick and agile, with only an occasional weakness — the classic Italian uncertainty about how and when to come off his line when dealing with crosses.

Pagliuca, a product of the Sampdoria youth team, has only ever played for the Genoa-based side, making his League debut at the age of 22 in a 0-0 home draw with Pisa in May 1988.

From that day on, he has been the Sampdoria first choice and over the last six seasons has performed consistently well.

His call up to the Italian national side for a June 1991 1-1 friendly draw with the then Soviet Union in Stockholm, when the side was still coached by Azeglio Vicini, came as no surprise.

Furthermore, when current coach Arrigo Sacchi named his side for his first game as Italian coach, a European Championship qualifier against Norway in Genoa in November of that same year, it seemed only logical that Sacchi should replace Vicini's first choice goalkeeper, Walter Zenga, with the six years younger Pagliuca.

A long run in the Italian team seemed assured. Not so.

Partly for political reasons and partly to satisfy his restless instinct for experimentation, Sacchi recalled Zenga for five successive games between December 1991 and June 1992.

However, a bad-tempered exchange with Ireland's Niall Quinn during a US '92 Cup friendly abruptly curtailed Sacchi's interest in Zenga, making way for Pagliuca to return.

Or so we thought. The remarkable Sacchi, however, had other plans. He had decided that Luca Marchegiani (then of Torino, now of Lazio) was the best Italian goalkeeper around and picked him for friendlies against the United States and Holland and for Italy's opening game in the 1994 World Cup qualifying series, against Switzerland in Cagliari in October 1992.

Two disastrous errors that night by Marchegiani, leading to both Swiss goals in a 2-2 draw, abruptly prompted another about turn by Sacchi.

This time he opted for Pagliuca and has stuck with that choice ever since.

It is a choice he is unlikely to regret. The reserved and self-contained Pagliuca is an expression of the relaxed Sampdoria set-up where he can quickly recover from even serious errors, such as the one he committed when being completely deceived by a last-minute Gianfranco Zola free-kick in the 2-1 defeat by Parma in early February.

His quiet exterior obviously conceals a man in something of a hurry, a point underlined when his Porsche went off the *autostrada* last summer, fortunately provoking only shoulder injuries from which he has made a complete recovery.

In his dealings with the media, Pagliuca tends to be ironic, a tease and monosyllabic.

His favourite response to questions about his performance is usually: "You lot judge for yourselves."

This summer, millions will do just that and the judgement is almost certain to be positive . . . very much in Pagliuca's favour.

PADDY AGNEW

PRO-FILE

GIANLUCA PAGLIUCA

SAMPDORIA AND ITALY

Born: December 18, 1966, in Bologna.

Height: 6ft 2in.

Previous clubs: none.

Serie A debut: May 8, 1988.

International debut: June 1991 v Soviet Union in Stockholm. Drew 1-1.

HONOURS

International caps: 16.

BORISLAV **MIKHAILOV**

Sometimes second best

BULGARIA's Borislav Mikhailov is his country's No. 1 goalkeeper. But at club level he is far from an automatic choice.

Mikhailov, with French Second Division club Mulhouse since 1991, has struggled for consistency this season and has been dropped on several occasions in favour of his understudy, Joel Baltaze.

Mulhouse coach Bernard Genghini, a French international midfielder at the 1982 and 1986 World Cup finals, says: "I have read a number of ridiculous reports about my decision to leave Borislav out.

"It's crazy to claim I omitted him because we were in the same World Cup group as France and I wanted to restrict his match practice. The idea that the selection was designed to weaken Bulgaria's chances of going to America is downright crazy.

"Mikhailov is a very able keeper, an outstanding shot-stopper. But he faces stiff competition for the first-team place. Although Borislav is the more experienced, I don't have any favourites. I simply pick the

man who shows the best form on the training round."

Whatever Genghini's motives, Mikhailov did not allow his stint in the reserves to affect his performance when Bulgaria travelled to Paris last November to meet France in a make-or-break World Cup tie.

The Bulgarians had to win to reach the finals and did so 2-1, thanks to Emil Kostadinov's last-minute goal.

Mikhailov says: "I felt sorry for France. Up until the last two qualifiers they appeared certain to go to the US.

"The key result in our group was Israel's 3-2 success in France. When we heard that score we just could not believe it. We had virtually given up hope.

"For the decisive match in France we felt we had nothing to lose and we were quite relaxed. They played for a draw because they needed only a point, but in the end they paid for a lack of adventure."

At 31, Mikhailov still has some years ahead in the game, and might even go on to pass 100 international caps. At the time of writing he had 72.

His first taste of World Cup finals action was in Mexico in 1986, a tournament of mixed emotions for him. A string of fine saves limited Italy to a 1-1 draw in the opening match, but Bulgaria then fell apart. They scraped through the preliminary phase with an unconvincing 1-1 draw against South Korea and a 2-0 loss to Argentina. Then, in the second round, they were swept aside by rampant hosts Mexico. The Bulgarian media reacted savagely. Adjectives employed to describe the team's expedition included anaemic, depressing and pathetic. Only Mikhailov was spared the critical heat and he was subsequently voted the nation's Footballer of the Year for 1986.

For many Bulgarians, however, Mikhailov was lucky to be in Mexico at all.

He was one of seven players who received a life ban after the infamous 1985 Cup Final brawl involving his Levski Spartak team and CSKA Sofia, when the ruling Communist authorities were so appalled that they ruled the competition void.

Within a few months, however, Bulgarian officials had concluded that his replacement, Ilia Valov, was not international material and pardoned Mikhailov, to enable him to rejoin the national team.

Mikhailov's father Georgei was a goalkeeper with Levski Spartak in the 1960s and used his influence to enrol his son in the club's youth section in 1975.

By the age of 18, Mikhailov's sharp reflexes and bravery were on display in the Levski senior side and over the next eight years he helped them to two championships and two domestic Cup Final victories.

In 1989 he emigrated to Portugal to play for Belenenses. But after the club dropped into the Second Division two seasons later, he moved to France and Mulhouse.

Undoubtedly the Bulgarians have a long-standing score to settle in America this summer. They have appeared in the final stages of five World Cups, but have yet to win a game — recording six draws and 10 defeats.

Mikhailov is optimistic they can do better this time.

NICK BIDWELL

PRO-FILE

BORISLAV MIKHAILOV

MULHOUSE AND BULGARIA

Born: February 12, 1963, in Sofia.

Previous clubs: Levski Spartak, Belenenses.

League debut: August 1981 for Levski v Trakia Plovdiv. Won 2-0.

International debut: September 1983 v Norway. Won 2-1.

International caps: 72

HONOURS

Bulgarian League: 1984, 1988.

Bulgarian Cup: 1984, 1986.

TONY **MEOLA**

Chasing Shilton

KASEY KELLER was Player of the Year at Millwall, but he is highly unlikely to defend the American goal in the World Cup.

As they say over there, it's Tony Meola to win, Keller to place.

Meola is in permanent training camp with the US team, while Keller gains his experience in England. But that does not impress US coach Bora Milutinovic. "English goalkeepers are not so good," he says.

"Who is the best in England? Peter Schmeichel. He's Danish."

There is also a feeling in the US camp that Keller is a touch arrogant, and his cause was not helped last year by a row over the use of a sponsor's gloves.

But there is another very simple reason for Meola's position as No. 1 US keeper: he is of the highest class. With one World Cup already behind him, considerable success in last year's US Cup, and as the regular US captain, Meola is the obvious first choice.

Antonio Michael Meola was born 24 years go, in Belleville, New Jersey, and the first language he learned was Italian. His father, Vincent, was a professional footballer with Avellino in the 1960s, then crossed the Atlantic to become a barber, but he gave his son a love of soccer.

Meola Junior is as rugged as any Serie A player. Also, he grew up in the right place, for New Jersey was once a home of soccer.

"We lived three miles from Giants Stadium," says Meola. "Those days, tbe late 1970s, were the peak of the NASL. New York Cosmos were getting 80,000 at Giants Stadium, and the American football team, were getting 30,000."

Meola played his early football with English and Scottish immigrants. John Harkes, later to go to Sheffield Wednesday, was an early team-mate, and from the age of eight Meola was coached by Harkes's father. At Kearny High School, Harkes junior and Meola achieved their first honour: the New Jersey state title of 1986.

Considerably greater things were to follow. Although the New York Yankees tugged at Meola, he rejected baseball and at 18, in 1988, he made his debut for his nation's soccer team, against Guatemala. Just over two years later he was playing in his first World Cup.

For all the young Americans who played at Italia '90, the tournament was a mixed blessing. Meola, only 21, started by conceding five goals against Czechoslovakia, though he then let in only one against Italy and two versus Austria.

Like all his team-mates, he responds to questions about that World Cup with barely-veiled criticism of the coach, Bob Gansler.

"I was asked to play like Rene Higuita, a long way out of goal," he said. "It was like that or not at all."

On the plus side, he says, playing Italy in Rome was a wonderful experience. "Soccer doesn't get any bigger than that."

At the time, he admits, he was still immature — "an athlete learning how to play in goal."

Around this time Meola had his one spell in Europe, at Watford and at Brighton, where he spent most of his time in the bench.

"At Watford, I got to play with Alan Devonshire," he says.

"Here was a guy coming to the end of his career, who knew what the world of soccer was about, and I had the chance to talk to him. But playing in England didn't improve me immensely."

Footballers have been playing in leagues since the sport began, but for a long time now most players in the American squad have been on an exclusive diet of friendlies. There is no professional league in the US, and only a few Americans have contracts in Europe.

Meola hates suggestions that friendlies are poor preparation for a World Cup.

"When you step out onto the field you find things aren't so friendly any more," he says. "You're crazy if you think that players don't mind losing.

"Take the US Cup '93 last June, with ourselves, England, Germany and Brazil — those matches were not friendlies."

Meola respects his rivals for top spot, including Brad Friedel, but is more concerned about results.

"We must do better than those three defeats of 1990," he says. "And it's going to be a little harder playing at home."

If all goes well, Meola will have played in two World Cups and still be only 25. Goalkeepers peak late and he might even break Peter Shilton's world record of 125 caps. He is over halfway there already.

SIMON KUPER

REP. IRELAND

End of the line?

Charlton may soon be back fishing

SEAN CREEDON

Green giants . . . Paul McGrath (below) and Roy Keane (right) will carry the Republic of Ireland's hopes in the United States this summer.

JACK CHARLTON admits that he was glad to get back from the 1990 World Cup in Italy and indulge in a bit of fishing.

The team he manages, the Republic of Ireland, had reached the quarter-finals on their first appearance in the last stages of a World Cup, but Charlton and his men had been away from home for six weeks.

If he feels the same way after qualifying for the United States, Charlton might have some consolation: the adventure is unlikely to last as long as it did in Italy.

The Irish caused a surprise in all three of their group games last time, drawing 1-1 with England when expected to lose, being held 0-0 by Egypt when clear favourites, then coming from behind to draw 1-1 with Holland.

By eliminating Romania on penalties after yet another draw they were within sight of a semi-final place, having scored only two "regulation" goals and having failed to win a match.

Their 1-0 defeat against Italy was by no means unexpected, but the Irish had certainly made a mark, though more by effort than skill.

Now they need to cause even more shocks if they are to get very far. Italy (again), Mexico and Norway are the other teams in their group, and the fact that a win is now worth three points, instead of two, is hardly a bonus for a team so short of scoring power.

Charlton, naturally, remains optimistic, although he still does not relish a lengthy campaign. He hates hanging around hotels and airports, giving interviews and dealing with hangers-on.

If he had his way, the Irish would fly out as late as possible and fly back as soon as possible. Instead they will leave on June 6, the day after playing the Czech Republic in Dublin.

"I wanted to be based near New York and to fly to and from Orlando for our second game, against Mexico," he says.

"But I've taken advice from the medical people and we'll be based in Orlando, flying to New York for the other two games."

Charlton certainly has been good for the Republic. Before his appointment in February 1986 they had never qualified for the finals of a major tournament. This World Cup is Charlton's hat-trick, following places in the 1988 European Championship and at Italia '90.

Four years ago the Irish were the oldest team in the finals, with an average age of 29. This time they probably will be the senior citizens again, unless the manager introduces some young players.

Kevin Moran at 38 is the eldest and 10 more of the likely squad are over 30. So will they be able to cope with Mexico in the mid-day sun, the flair of the Italians and the resilient Norwegians?

They will not be lacking support. The Irish have plenty of relatives and friends in the

'Italy (again), Mexico and Norway are the other teams in their group, and the fact that a win is now worth three points, instead of two, is hardly a bonus for a team so short of scoring power'

United States. The only difficulty so far has been the allocation of tickets.

Charlton's usual style of play is 4-4-2. He has on a few occasions opted for a 4-5-1 formation, but it has not worked.

So the loss of striker Niall Quinn with a knee injury is a cruel blow. Quinn was the top target man, and that role almost certainly will go to Tony Cascarino, who also has had surgery this year.

The strike force is the biggest problem. John Aldridge is 35 now and injury prone, and the only other strikers available are David Kelly and Tommy Coyne.

That's why the sports pages over the past few months have been full of speculation on forwards willing to trace their Irish roots, as the FAI make full use of FIFA's parental rule.

Elsewhere the Irish have world-class players in Roy Keane and Paul McGrath. This is Keane's first World Cup and everybody is expecting great things from him. With plenty of midfielders available, including Andy Townsend (below), Ray Houghton, Alan McLoughlin and Eddie McGoldrick, McGrath will play in central defence.

Ronnie Whelan is hoping for one of the midfield places. He had a frustrating time in Italy, when he was carrying an injury and played less than half an hour. But Keane and McGrath will be going at the end of long, pressure-packed seasons, and Whelan's fitness is a problem.

Charlton is nobody's fool, and a blend of youth and experience could enable him to bring off a few more upsets.

The team did well in the qualifying tournament, winning seven games, drawing four and losing only to Spain. But now the real thing awaits . . . let us hope the fish will be biting round the end of June.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
EUROPE
GROUP 3

22.04.92	Spain v Albania	3-0
28.04.92	Northern Ireland v Lithuania	2-2
26.05.92	**Rep. of Ireland** v Albania	2-0
03.06.92	Albania v Lithuania	1-0
12.08.92	Latvia v Lithuania	1-2
26.08.92	Latvia v Denmark	0-0
09.09.92	**Rep. of Ireland** v Latvia	4-0
09.09.92	Northern Ireland v Albania	3-0
23.09.92	Latvia v Spain	0-0
23.09.92	Lithuania v Denmark	0-0
14.10.92	Denmark v **Rep. of Ireland**	0-0
14.10.92	Northern Ireland v Spain	0-0
28.10.92	Lithuania v Latvia	1-1
11.11.92	Albania v Latvia	1-1
18.11.92	Northern Ireland v Denmark	0-1
18.11.92	Spain v **Rep. of Ireland**	0-0
16.12.92	Spain v Latvia	5-0
17.02.93	Albania v Northern Ireland	1-2
24.02.93	Spain v Lithuania	5-0
31.03.93	Denmark v Spain	1-0
31.03.93	**Rep. of Ireland** v N. Ireland	3-0
14.04.93	Denmark v Latvia	2-0
14.04.93	Lithuania v Albania	3-1
28.04.93	**Rep. of Ireland** v Denmark	1-1
28.04.93	Spain v Northern Ireland	3-1
15.05.93	Latvia v Albania	0-0
25.05.93	Lithuania v Northern Ireland	0-1
26.05.93	Albania v **Rep. of Ireland**	1-2
02.06.93	Denmark v Albania	4-0
02.06.93	Latvia v Northern Ireland	1-2
02.06.93	Lithuania v Spain	0-2
09.06.93	Latvia v **Rep. of Ireland**	0-2
16.06.93	Lithuania v **Rep. of Ireland**	0-1
25.08.93	Denmark v Lithuania	4-0
08.09.93	Albania v Denmark	0-1
08.09.93	**Rep. of Ireland** v Lithuania	2-0
08.09.93	Northern Ireland v Latvia	2-0
22.09.93	Albania v Spain	1-5
13.10.93	Denmark v Northern Ireland	1-0
13.10.93	**Rep. of Ireland** v Spain	1-3
17.11.93	N. Ireland v **Rep. of Ireland**	1-1
17.11.93	Spain v Denmark	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SPAIN	12	8	3	1	27	4	19
REP IRELAND	12	7	4	1	19	6	18
Denmark	12	7	4	1	15	2	18
N. Ireland	12	5	3	4	14	13	13
Lithuania	12	2	3	7	8	21	7
Latvia	12	0	5	7	4	21	5
Albania	12	1	2	9	6	26	4

1994 WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

FIRST ROUND

GROUP E

ITALY
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
NORWAY
MEXICO

18.06.94	Italy v Rep. of Ireland	New York
19.06.94	Norway v Mexico	Washington
23.06.94	Italy v Norway	New York
24.06.94	Mexico v Rep. of Ireland	Orlando
28.06.94	Rep. of Ireland v Norway	New York
28.06.94	Italy v Mexico	Washington

the *COACH*

Jack CHARLTON. Aged 58 (born May 8, 1935). Spent his entire playing career with Leeds United. Later managed Middlesbrough, Sheffield Wednesday and Newcastle United before quitting to concentrate on his hobbies of shooting and fishing. A surprise choice as Republic manager eight years ago.

the *SQUAD*

Packie BONNER. Goalkeeper. Aged 33 (born May 24, 1960) with 69 caps. Celtic. First capped against Poland on his 21st birthday. His greatest moment was against Romania in the 1990 World Cup finals when he saved Timofte's shoot-out penalty.

Alan KELLY. Goalkeeper. Aged 25 (born August 11, 1968) with 1 cap. Sheffield United. Made his senior debut against Wales in February 1993. Probably will have to wait until after the World Cup to take over from Bonner.

Dennis IRWIN. Defender. Aged 28 (born October 31, 1965) with 24 caps (1 goal). Manchester United. Senior debut against Morocco in September 1990. With Oldham before his successful switch to nearby Old Trafford.

Steve STAUNTON. Defender or midfielder. Aged 25 (born January 19, 1969) with 43 caps (5 goals). Aston Villa. Made his debut against Tunisia in October 1988. Has scored some vital goals from free-kicks as well as coping in various positions.

Terry PHELAN. Defender. Aged 27 (born March 16, 1967) with 18 caps. Manchester City. A regular since making his debut against Hungary in September 1991. Previously played for Leeds, Swansea and Wimbledon.

David O'LEARY. Defender. Aged 35 (born May 2, 1958) with 68 caps (1 goal). Leeds United. No great favourite of Charlton's and will be hard pushed to make the plane for America. Spent 20 years with Arsenal before joining Leeds last summer. Injured for most of this season.

Paul McGRATH. Defender or midfielder. Aged 34 (born December 4, 1959) with 63 caps (7 goals). Aston Villa. First capped against Italy in February 1985. Right-back, central defender or midfielder, PFA Player of the Year in England last season.

Kevin MORAN. Defender. Aged 38 (born April 29, 1956) with 69 caps (6 goals). Blackburn Rovers. Oldest player in the squad but still a solid defender. With Manchester United and Sporting Gijon before Blackburn.

Alan KERNAGHAN. Defender. Aged 27 (born April 25, 1967) with 9 caps (1 goal). Manchester City. Grew up in Belfast and played schoolboy football for Northern Ireland. First capped by the Republic in September 1992.

Ray HOUGHTON. Midfielder. Aged 32 (born January 9, 1962) with 56 caps (3 goals). Aston Villa.Won his first cap in Charlton's first game, against Wales in March 1986, and has been a regular since. Part of the Graeme Souness clear-out at Liverpool.

Andy TOWNSEND. Midfielder. Aged 30 (born 23 July, 1963) with 41 caps (4 goals). Aston Villa. Debut in February 1989, now captain. Rated one of the best midfielders in Europe a few years back.

Roy KEANE. Midfielder. Aged 22 (born August 10, 1971) with 19 caps. Moved from Forest to Manchester United for a record £3.75 million in July last year. Had gone from Cobh Ramblers for £25,000 three years earlier. First capped against Chile in May 1991.

Ronnie WHELAN. Midfielder. Aged 32 (born September 25, 1961) with 47 caps (3 goals). Liverpool. The past few seasons have been frustrating for Whelan. Joined Liverpool from Dublin amateurs Home Farm.

Alan McLOUGHLIN. Midfielder. Aged 27 (born April 20, 1967) with 15 caps (1 goal). Portsmouth. The hero against Northern Ireland at Windsor Park in November last year. Got a late call-up to the 1990 squad in place of Gary Waddock.

Eddie McGOLDRICK. Midfielder. Aged 29 (born April 30, 1965) with 9 caps. Arsenal. First capped in March 1992. Joined Arsenal from Crystal Palace at the end of last season.

Tony CASCARINO. Forward. Aged 31 (born September 1, 1962) with 46 caps (11 goals). Chelsea. First capped under Eoin Hand against Switzerland in September 1985. Has also played for Gillingham, Millwall, Aston Villa and Celtic.

John ALDRIDGE. Forward. Aged 35 (born September 18, 1958) with 56 caps (13 goals). Tranmere Rovers. Played for Newport, Oxford, Liverpool and Real Sociedad in Spain before returning home to Merseyside in 1992. Made his Irish debut in March 1986.

David KELLY. Forward. Aged 28 (born November 25, 1965) with 15 caps (7 goals). Wolverhampton Wanderers. An impressive debut with a hat-trick against Israel in November 1987, but little since. Joined Wolves from Newcastle.

Tommy COYNE. Forward. Aged 31 (born November 14, 1962) with 9 caps (3 goals). Motherwell. Back playing in Scotland after two seasons with Tranmere. First capped in March 1992.

ROMANIA

Time for stars to shine

Temperament could be the problem

BY BOB VAUGHAN

THERE is little double that Romania produces talented footballers. The nation's team emerged from the shadows of Balkan Communism two decades ago, to take on others from outside Eastern and Central Europe.

They drew in a friendly at Wembley — a prestigious invitation then — and qualified for the 1970 World Cup in Mexico, renewing links with competitive football at top level which had been broken with the post-1945 change in politics.

Rather like the current team, the country's soccer has had its up and downs since then.

Romania had not been represented in the World Cup for 32 years before Mexico, which was a trough after the peaks of the first three World Cups.

For the first, in Uruguay, King Carol assisted in the selection of the squad and intervened before they sailed to Montevideo, when the question of leave of absence for the players threatened another European withdrawal.

It was a long way to go to beat Peru 3-1 and be eliminated 4-0 by the eventual winners, Uruguay, but a start.

In 1934 and 1938 Romania again reached the final stages, though only after initial disqualification for fielding an ineligible player against Switzerland in the preliminaries had been quashed on appeal on the road to Italy, and the Egyptians had withdrawn from the qualifying games for a ticket to France.

Progress in Italy beyond round one was barred by the strong Czechoslovak team, and four years later there was greater woe when Cuba astonishingly put out the Romanians.

There followed over three decades of non-qualification and, for Brazil 1950 and Chile 1962, the Federation did not enter and withdrew respectively, a considerable contrast to the efforts to get on the world stage in the 1930s.

Romanian football was not one of the disciplines favoured in the new order of socialist sport but after CCA, Steaua Bucharest's forerunner, had visited Britain and such as Luton Town had been seen by nearly 100,000 in return friendlies in the mid-1950s in Bucharest, the national team began to improve.

Non-qualification for England in 1966 was a disappointment — there was a catastrophic defeat in Turkey — but consolation came in 1970, when one of the stars was subsequent national coach Mircea Lucescu on the left wing.

Even Lucescu, however, could not prevent early elimination, after the Romanians had drawn an almost impossibly short straw with old rivals Czechoslovakia, eventual winners Brazil, and England.

Then followed another trough of four non-qualifications before Romania emerged in 1989, thanks to a last-match home victory over Denmark.

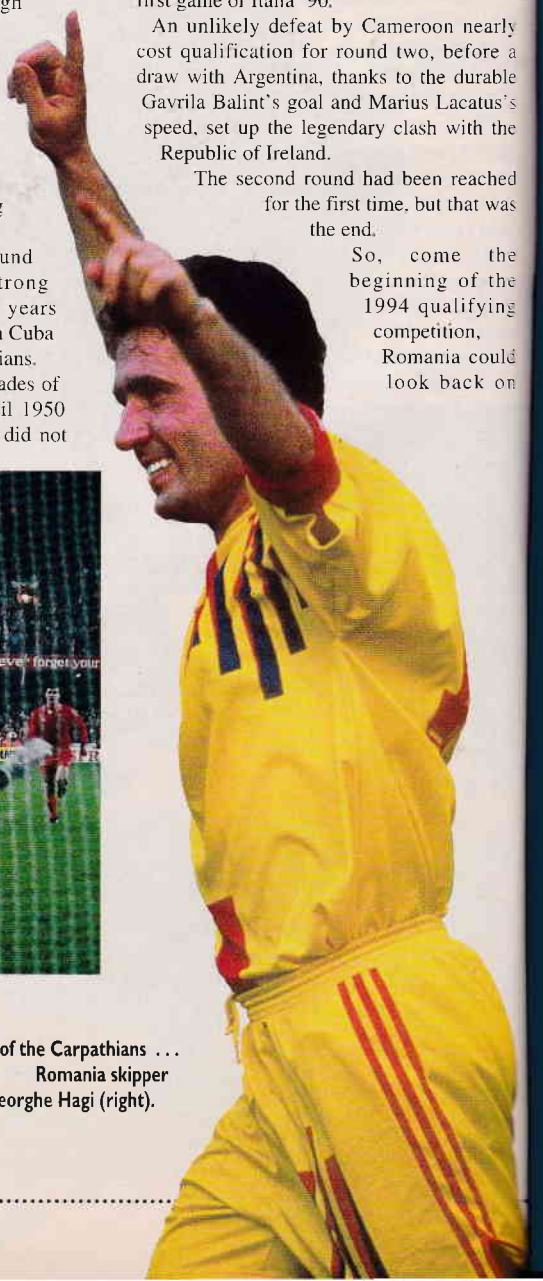
The Steaua element from the 1986 European Champions proved too strong for the Danes and then for the Soviets in the first game of Italia '90.

An unlikely defeat by Cameroon nearly cost qualification for round two, before a draw with Argentina, thanks to the durable Gavrila Balint's goal and Marius Lacatus's speed, set up the legendary clash with the Republic of Ireland.

The second round had been reached for the first time, but that was the end.

So, come the beginning of the 1994 qualifying competition, Romania could look back on

Welsh woe . . . Wales defender Paul Bodin misses a penalty in Cardiff and Romania are on their way to US '94.



King of the Carpathians . . . Romania skipper Gheorghe Hagi (right).

only three wins in 12 final-round ties. Cornel Dinu, who had left a senior post in the Sports Council to be a national coach, began with cracking wins at home to the Faroe Islands and Wales, rattling up a dozen goals as Gheorghe "King of the Carpathians" Hagi swung into inspired action.

A five-month break from World Cup action before Brussels resulted in the first setback, and worse was to follow when only a draw could be managed with the Czechs in Bucharest.

Two wins over Cyprus seemed to have put the ship back on course, but then came disaster in Kosice and the Czecho-Slovaks were back in business.

In summer 1993 Cornel Dinu's record was four wins, a draw and two losses on a downward curve, and urgent action was definitely needed.

Dinu was dismissed and Anghel Iodanescu, back from Cyprus at his old place of work, Steaua, was asked to take over for the final three matches — Faroes away, at home to Belgium, and in Wales.

There was no doubt that Iordanescu had a talented group of players, but could he get the best out of his potential? The answer, narrowly, came out right.

The Faroes were beaten 4-0, Belgium were narrowly defeated in Bucharest, and a win was needed to be certain of going to the US when Romania went to Cardiff.

Attack proved the right answer. There was no Welsh answer to Hagi, who showed that he is hardly a spent force, as some have it. Will it be the case in America? Iordanescu's team do not always travel well, and there is the question of temperament.

Hagi's recent behaviour in Belfast received the appropriate punishment and could be costly.

The start with Colombia could be a fiery affair, the US match in Los Angeles will be a focus of attention, and old foes Switzerland could decide who goes on to the second round.

Ioan Sabau in midfield and Miodrag Belodedici at the back pinning the defence, Iordanescu needs Hagi in full creative flow to make the bullets for Florin Ruducioiu.

So far there is little on the practice schedule. The squad will assemble for training camp on May 13, and a farewell home international is planned, but with Iodanescu's first choices flung far and wide, with vital promotion matches in some cases, the coach will be on tenterhooks.

Fortunately he is helped by a very early close to the Romanian professional season.

Question of selection probably will not be answered in any friendly internationals the RFR can arrange before departure but the manager, who will have been in office for only a year when the World Cup ends, has seen it all before.

If anyone can get Romania further along the path to a quarter-final or better, probably Iodanescu can.

Perhaps, after 64 years of trying, the Romanian time has come.

'The start with Colombia could be a fiery affair, the US match will be a focus of attention, and old foes Switzerland could decide who goes on to the second round'

1994 WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A

UNITED STATES
SWITZERLAND
COLOMBIA
ROMANIA

18.06.94	US v Switzerland	Detroit
18.06.94	Colombia v Romania	Los Angeles
22.06.94	Romania v Switzerland	Detroit
22.06.94	US v Colombia	Los Angeles
26.06.94	US v Romania	Los Angeles
26.06.94	Switzerland v Colombia	San Francisco

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
EUROPE
GROUP 4

22.04.92	Belgium v Cyprus	1-0
06.05.92	**Romania** v Faroe Islands	7-0
20.05.92	**Romania** v Wales	5-1
03.06.92	Faroe Islands v Belgium	0-3
18.06.92	Faroe Islands v Cyprus	0-2
02.09.92	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	1-2
09.09.92	Wales v Faroe Islands	6-0
23.09.92	Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands	4-0
14.10.92	Belgium v **Romania**	1-0
14.10.92	Cyprus v Wales	0-1
14.11.92	**Romania** v Czechoslovakia	1-1
18.11.92	Belgium v Wales	2-0
29.11.92	Cyprus v **Romania**	1-4
13.02.93	Cyprus v Belgium	0-3
24.03.93	Cyprus v Czechoslovakia	1-1
31.03.93	Wales v Belgium	2-0
14.04.93	**Romania** v Cyprus	2-1
25.04.93	Cyprus v Faroe Islands	3-1
28.04.93	Czechoslovakia v Wales	1-1
22.05.93	Belgium v Faroe Islands	3-0
02.06.93	Czechoslovakia v **Romania**	5-2
06.06.93	Faroe Islands v Wales	0-3
16.06.93	Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia	0-3
08.09.93	Wales v Czechoslovakia	2-2
08.09.93	Faroe Islands v **Romania**	0-4
13.10.93	**Romania** v Belgium	2-1
13.10.93	Wales v Cyprus	2-0
27.10.93	Czechoslovakia v Cyprus	3-0
17.11.93	Wales v **Romania**	1-2
17.11.93	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ROMANIA	10	7	1	2	29	12	15
BELGIUM	10	7	1	2	16	5	15
Czechoslovakia	10	4	5	1	21	9	13
Wales	10	5	2	3	19	12	12
Cyprus	10	2	1	7	8	18	5
Faroe Islands	10	0	0	10	1	38	0

the *COACH*

Anghel IORDANESCU. Aged 46. Spent his playing career with Steaua Bucharest, with 300 appearances and 150 goals. Capped 54 times for Romania, and scored 26 goals. After a spell as player manager with Iraklion, Iordanescu returned as assistant manager at Steaua when they won the Champions Cup. Became manager a year later and Steaua reached another Champions Cup final, as well as winning a Super Cup. Famagusta was his next coaching post before again coming back to Steaua and taking them to last season's title. Was appointed in place of Cornel Dinu following the World Cup qualifying defeat in Kosice.

the *SQUAD*

Florin PRUNEA. Goalkeeper. Aged 22 (born August 8, 1968) with 16 caps. Dinamo Bucharest. Established as first choice in the past 18 months. Began with "U" Cluj, then followed a spell at "U" Craiova but his career has blossomed since the move to Dinamo in 1992.

Bogdan STELEA. Goalkeeper. Aged 26 (born December 5, 1967) with 15 caps. Standard Liege (Bel). Lost his place to Prunea in both the Dinamo and national teams and moved to Spain's Mallorca. Now a little nearer home in Belgium, and again challenging for the position, having made a return as substitute in the Belfast friendly.

Miodrag BELODEDICI. Defender. Aged 29 (born May 20, 1964) with 29 caps (4 goals). Valencia (Spa). An experienced sweeper and key man at the back. Won Champions Cup medals with both Steaua and Red Star Belgrade. Returned to the national team in 1992 against Latvia after a three-year absence, having fled the Ceaucescu regime for Yugoslavia and then Spain.

Dan PETRESCU. Defender. Aged 26 (born December 22, 1967) with 29 caps (2 goals). Genoa (Ita). Right-sided and attack-minded, former captain of Steaua. Highly regarded, but missed Italia '90 due to injury. Moved to Foggia in 1991 and on to Genoa two years later.

Daniel PRODAN. Defender. Aged 22 (born March 25, 1972) with 5 caps. Steaua. A great prospect who had the misfortune to start his international career in the 5-2 defeat by the RCS.

Dorinel MUNTEANU. Defender. Aged 25 (born June 25, 1968) with 25 caps (2 goals). Cercle Bruges (Bel). Left Dinamo last summer, having started his career with FC Olt. Consistent player who likes to move up from the back.

Tibor SELYMES. Defender. Aged 23 (born May 14, 1970) with 9 caps. Cercle Bruges (Bel). Made his international debut against Mexico in August 1992. Links cleverly with clubmate Munteanu.

Ioan SABAU. Midfielder. Aged 26 (born February 12, 1968) with 43 caps (8 goals). Brescia (Ita). Former Dinamo midfielder who moved to Holland's Feyenoord, and then on to join the "Romanian Colony" in Brescia. Skilful midfield player, full of running.

Ioan LUPESCU. Midfielder. Aged 25 (born December 9, 1968) with 26 caps (5 goals). Bayer Leverkusen (Ger). Has been in Germany for four years, after a spell with Austrian club Admira Wacker in Vienna. Tall and commanding.

Gheorghe POPESCU. Midfielder. Aged 26 (born October 9, 1967) with 41 caps (2 goals). PSV Eindhoven (Hol). Experienced defensive midfielder in his fourth year in Eindhoven. Romanian "Footballer of the Year" in 1989 and 1990, and star of the 1990 World Cup. Can play anywhere in midfield or at the back. Began at "U" Craiova.

Basarab PANDURU. Midfielder. Aged 23 (born July 11, 1970) with 5 caps (1 goal). Steaua. In good form and hoping to establish himself in the national squad. Started with Second Division CSM Resita.

Daniel TIMOFTE. Midfielder. Aged 26 (born October 1, 1967) with 17 caps (2 goals). Samsunspor (Tur). Left Dinamo for Bayer Uerdingen in the Bundesliga after the 1990 World Cup. Now playing in the Turkish League. More likely to be on the bench than starting in the US.

Ion TIMOFTE. Midfielder. Aged 26 (born December 16, 1967) with 7 caps (1 goal). FC Porto (Por). Was a prolific scorer from midfield with "Poli" Timisoara before a move to Portugal nearly four years ago. Regular marksman and dead-ball specialist.

Ilie DUMITRESCU. Midfielder. Aged 24 (born January 6, 1969) with 35 caps (12 goals). Steaua. Led his club to the Championship last season. Began with the Bucharest "Star" at 19. Dangerous attacking midfielder who was leading Romanian League scorer, with 24, last season. Set to move West after the World Cup.

Gheorghe HAGI. Midfielder. Aged 29 (born February 5, 1965) with 81 caps (21 goals). Brescia (Ita). The individualist and playmaker when in the mood. Nearing his 10th year in the national team. Has a lethal left foot. Cost Real Madrid £2million from Steaua in 1990. Two years later he was with Brescia in Serie A.

Marius LACATUS. Striker. Aged 30 (born April 5, 1964) with 60 caps (9 goals). Steaua. Back home from Spain's Oviedo. Was a World Cup star four years ago, before joining Fiorentina, where he made a big impact. Has excellent understanding with Hagi.

Florin RADUCIOIU. Striker. Aged 24 (born March 17, 1970) with 22 caps (11 goals). Milan (Ita). On loan from Brescia to Milan, his fourth Italian club. Left Dinamo for Bari in 1990 following good form in the World Cup. His 13 goals failed to save Brescia from the drop to Serie B. Also had a spell at Verona.

Gheorghe CRAIOVEANU. Striker. Aged 25 (born February 14, 1968) with 4 caps. "U" Craiova. Has made a big impression as a dangerous front man. In his fourth year with the successful provincial club, the hot tip for the Romanian Cup. Began in Division two with Metalurgistul Slatina. Likely deputy for Raducioiu.

RUSSIA

Rouble trouble

Player revolt weakens Sadyrin's chances

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

RUSSIA'S preparations for their first World Cup appearance in their own right have been seriously disturbed by the attempt by a significant group of players to rid themselves of manager Pavel Sadyrin.

The old Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 and the sporting remnant, the CIS — or Commonwealth of Independent States — wound up the Soviet sporting era at the 1992 European Championship finals. CIS manager Anatoli Bishovets was then out of a job, and Sadyrin, who had led CSKA Moscow to the last Soviet League championship in 1991, took over.

Many of the more sophisticated, European-based players, however, consider him naive and old-fashioned in methods and tactical approach. Once Russia had completed their World Cup qualifiers with success, they signed an open letter insisting on Sadyrin's replacement — among a number of demands, some of them involving the all-important rouble.

Sadyrin ignored the threat and, despite signs that the players had the support of President Yeltsin, Federation president Vyacheslav Koloskov was the man who mattered. He rejected the opposition to Sadyrin, believing all the while that this was a red herring and that the serious issue was money.

Once the players saw that Bishovets had left for South Korea and was not available as

Off to the United States . . . key Russia players Vasili Kulkov of Benfica (above) and Andrei Kanchelskis of Manchester United (right).

'This time, we will be much better prepared not only physically but mentally as well'

a potential replacement for Sadyrin, the revolt did indeed subside — once a £70,000-a-man World Cup-winning bonus had been agreed. Whether the Russians play well enough to achieve that is, of course, wide open to doubt.

In the past the old Soviet Union generally started the finals at high speed and faded just past the halfway stage. In 1990, in Italy, they could not even manage that and were one of the first nations to catch the plane home, squabbling among themselves and at odds with coach Valeri Lobanovski.

He has gone now and so have most of his Ukraine players. They provided much of the skill and creative thought in Soviet teams for years and some remain, having opted to continue with Russia rather than make a new start with an independent Ukraine republic.

Russia, of course, had an inbuilt advantage. The country's central role at the heart of the Soviet Union meant it had been granted the right to take over the Soviets' place in the draw for the 1994 World Cup qualifiers. Ukraine, Byelorussia and Georgia all had to wait until next time.

Not only that, but Russia benefited from having been drawn in a preliminary group already weakened by the suspension of Yugoslavia and, by June of last year, had become one of the first nations to secure a place in the finals.

Sadyrin says he is determined to learn from past mistakes in World Cup preparations. He says: "What happened before was down to insufficient experience among our coaches. This time, we will be much better prepared not only physically but mentally as well."

Previously, Sadyrin (above) coached CSKA Moscow and his goalkeeper with the Red Army team, Dimitri Kharin (now with London club Chelsea), is likely to be first choice for the World Cup finals.

The 1992 and 1993 Russian Footballer of the Year Viktor Onopko, Manchester United winger Andrei Kanchelskis and the moody Benfica striker, Sergei Yuran, also seem certain to travel.

Tsarist Russia took part once in the Olympic Games, at the start of the century, but the Communist Soviet Union deliberately isolated themselves from international sporting competition between the revolutionary year of 1917 and the end of the Second World War.

Hopefully, their return to international centre stage will prove worth the wait.

1994 WORLD CUP SCHEDULE
FIRST ROUND

GROUP B
BRAZIL
RUSSIA
CAMEROON
SWEDEN

19.06.94	Cameroon v Sweden	Los Angeles
20.06.94	Brazil v Russia	San Francisco
24.06.94	Brazil v Cameroon	San Francisco
24.06.94	Sweden v Russia	Detroit
28.06.94	Russia v Cameroon	San Francisco
28.06.94	Brazil v Sweden	Detroit

HOW THEY QUALIFIED
EUROPE
GROUP 5

13.05.92	Greece v Iceland	1-0
03.06.92	Hungary v Iceland	1-2
09.09.92	Luxembourg v Hungary	0-3
07.10.92	Iceland v Greece	0-1
14.10.92	**Russia** v Iceland	1-0
28.10.92	**Russia** v Luxembourg	2-0
11.11.92	Greece v Hungary	0-0
17.02.93	Greece v Luxembourg	2-0
31.03.93	Hungary v Greece	0-1
14.04.93	Luxembourg v **Russia**	0-4
28.04.93	**Russia** v Hungary	3-0
20.05.93	Luxembourg v Iceland	1-1
23.05.93	**Russia** v Greece	1-1
02.06.93	Iceland v **Russia**	1-1
16.06.93	Iceland v Hungary	2-0
08.09.93	Hungary v **Russia**	1-3
08.09.93	Iceland v Luxembourg	1-0
12.10.93	Luxembourg v Greece	1-3
27.10.93	Hungary v Luxembourg	1-0
17.11.93	Greece v **Russia**	1-0

★ *Yugoslavia excluded due to UN sanctions*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GREECE	8	6	2	0	10	2	14
RUSSIA	8	5	2	1	15	4	12
Iceland	8	3	2	3	7	6	8
Hungary	8	2	1	5	6	11	5
Luxembourg	8	0	1	7	2	17	1

the COACH

Pavel SADYRIN. Aged 51 (born September 18, 1942). Appointed in July, 1992, as first manager of the new Russia. Played in midfield for Zvezda Perm and Zenit Leningrad, whom he later coached to the Soviet League title in 1984. Took over CSKA in 1988 and guided them to promotion, to the League championship and then into the Champions League.

the SQUAD

Stanislav CHERCHESOV. Goalkeeper. Aged 30 (born September 2, 1963) 20 caps. Dynamo Dresden (Ger). Began with Spartak, moved to Lokomotiv Moscow then returned to Spartak and went to Germany last year. Voted the league's top keeper in 1989 and 1990, national debut in 1990.

Dimitri KHARIN. Goalkeeper. Aged 25 (born August 16, 1968) 20 caps. Chelsea (Eng). At 17 he was one of the youngest goalkeepers ever in the old Soviet Supreme League when he made his debut with Moscow Torpedo. Two years later he transferred to Moscow Dynamo, and then won Olympic gold at Seoul in 1988. Eventually moved to CSKA Moscow, helping them to their first League title in 21 years and regaining his national place. Joined Chelsea in 1992.

Dmitri KHLESTOV. Right-back. Aged 23 (born January 21, 1971) 12 caps. Moscow Spartak. Soviet youth international who then played three times for the senior USSR/CIS. A product of the Spartak youth scheme.

Dimitri KUZNETSOV. Right-back or midfield. Aged 28 (born August 28, 1965) 26 caps (two goals). Espanol (Spa). In 1988 he was in the Soviet Olympic-winning side, then made senior debut against the US in 1990. Joined Espanol in February last year.

Vasili KULKOV. Sweeper or defensive midfield. Aged 27 (born June 11, 1966) 31 caps (one goal). Benfica (Por). Made his name in the Moscow Spartak side who reached the Champions Cup semi-finals in 1991.

Sergei GORLUKOVICH. Defender. Aged 32 (born November 18, 1961) 32 caps (one goal). Bayer Leverkusen (Ger). A native of Byelorussia, he opted to play on for Russia. With Lokomotiv Moscow and Dynamo Minsk, before moving to Bor-ussia Dortmund and Bayer Uerdingen.

Andrei IVANOV. Defender. Aged 27 (born April 6, 1967) 15 caps. Moscow Spartak. A surprise inclusion in the CIS squad for the 1992 European finals, and considered one of the best no-nonsense defenders in Russia.

Viktor ONOPKO. Left-back or midfield. Aged 24 (born October 14, 1969) 19 caps (one goal). Moscow Spartak. Footballer of the Year in 1992 and 1993, likely to join Werder Bremen after the World Cup. Went to Spartak in 1991 from Shakhtyor Donetsk.

Igor SHALIMOV. Midfield. Aged 25 (born February 2, 1969) 31 caps (three goals). Internazionale (Ita). The most expensive Russian in history when, after Euro '92, he joined Inter for £6.5million from Foggia. Failed to settle at Inter and could be on his way after US '94.

Dmitri POPOV. Midfield. Aged 27 (born February 27, 1967) 11 caps (three goals). Santander (Spa). Began as a forward but learned to play full-back and defensive midfield in three years with Moscow Spartak after leaving Shinik Yaroslavl.

Igor LEDIAKHOV. Midfield. Aged 25 (born May 22, 1968) 14 caps (one goal). Moscow Spartak. Made his international debut for the CIS in a 1-0 win over the United States in Miami in January 1992 and played at the European finals in Sweden. Afterwards, he was a cornerstone of the Moscow Spartak side who won the new Russian championship in both 1992 and 1993.

Valeri KARPIN. Midfield. Aged 25 (born February 2, 1969) 10 caps (one goal). Moscow Spartak. Karpin is an Estonian who joined Spartak in 1990. Karpin wrote his name into football history when he scored the first goal for the "new" Russia - from a penalty after 61 minutes of a 2-0 win over Mexico in Moscow in August, 1992.

Andrei PIATNITSKI. Midfield. Aged 26 (born September 29, 1967) nine caps (three goals). Moscow Spartak. He joined the club at the start of 1992 after several seasons with Start and Pakhtakor of Tashkent.

Igor KOLIVANOV. Midfield. Aged 26 (born March 6, 1968) 31 caps (four goals). Foggia (Ita). Joined in 1991 from Moscow Dynamo. His arrival was delayed by red tape and he was overshadowed by Shalimov. Joined Dynamo from the army sports school in 1986 and was top scorer with 18 goals in 1991, in the last Soviet Supreme League.

Igor DOBROVOLSKY. Midfield. Aged 26 (born August 27, 1967) 37 caps (nine goals). Moscow Dynamo. A member of the 1988 Soviet Olympic team, he had bad luck with injuries. Early in 1990 went on loan to Castellon in Spain, then to Servette in Switzerland after an abortive move to Genoa. Returned there briefly but was loaned out again to Marseille before finally going home.

Vladimir BESCHASTNIKH. Forward. Aged 20 (born April 1, 1974) five caps. Moscow Spartak. One of twins (bother Mikhail also plays for Spartak). A product of the Spartak youth sections, making his international debut at 18 as a substitute in the "new" Russia's first match.

Andrei KANCHELSKIS. Winger. Aged 25 (born January 23, 1969) 29 caps (four goals). Manchester United (Eng). £500,000 arrival from Shakhtyor Donetsk, after playing for Zvezda Kirovograd and Kiev Dynamo. Was the Soviet Union's three-goal top scorer in the 1992 European qualifiers.

Sergei YURAN. Attack. Aged 23 (born June 11, 1969) 26 caps (seven goals). Benfica (Por). Rated one of the finest young forwards in Europe when he cost Benfica £1million in 1991 from Kiev.

Sergei KIRIAKOV. Forward. Aged 24 (born January 1, 1970) 19 caps (nine goals). Karlsruhe (Ger). A winger with Moscow Dynamo before being turned into a strike. In 1992 he joined Karlsruhe with whom he blossomed as one of the outstanding individual match-winners in the Bundesliga.

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

This month, and every month from now on, *WORLD SOCCER* and Coca-Cola will bring you the latest, up-to-date FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking.

The FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking was initiated in August 1993, and is a computerised ranking system which provides a regular status classification of all senior national teams throughout the world.

The Ranking makes for interesting reading, and is particularly useful when comparing one opposing country with another. For instance, a look at the groups for the World Cup finals with each country's ranking alongside is very revealing.

GROUP A	
US	21
Switzerland	5
Colombia	20
Romania	10
Total	56

GROUP B	
Brazil	2
Russia	16
Cameroon	26
Sweden	7
Total	51

GROUP C	
Germany	1
Bolivia	56
Spain	6
South Korea	40
Total	103

GROUP D	
Argentina	8
Greece	34
Nigeria	18
Bulgaria	23
Total	73

GROUP E	
Italy	11
Rep Ireland	13
Norway	3
Mexico	14
Total	41

GROUP F	
Belgium	33
Morocco	29
Holland	9
Saudi Arabia	36
Total	107

Basically, the lower the total number, the harder the group. Consequently group E, containing Italy, the Republic of Ireland, Norway and Mexico is the toughest of the opening round, while group E, containing Belgium, Morocco, Holland and Saudi Arabia is the easiest. *WORLD SOCCER* will bring you the up-to-date Ranking each month, in association with Coca-Coca — official soft drink of US '94!

HOW IT WORKS

The FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking is based upon the results of:

- World Cup finals matches
- World Cup qualifying matches
- Continental Championship finals matches
- Continental Championship qualifying matches
- Friendly matches

The computer programme which calculates the Ranking awards points according to the following criteria:

- whether the team have won, drawn or lost the match
- how many goals the team have scored or conceded
- bonus points for the away team (but none on neutral ground)
- the importance of the match
- the continent of the teams involved

A new Ranking will be issued monthly, taking into account the most recent matches played. The best eight results in a 12-month period will be evaluated, or an average in the case of those teams playing fewer than eight games.

1994 WORLD RANKING SCHEDULE

Month	*Release date*
January	Tue, Jan 18
February	Tue Feb 15
March	Tue Mar 15
April	Tue Apr 19
May	Tue May 17
June	Tue Jun 14
July	Tue July 19
August*	Tue Aug 16
September	Tue Sep 13
October	Tue Oct 18
November	Tue Nov 15
December**	Tue Dec 13

** subject to sufficient international match activities*
*** date to be confirmed (special awards)*

At the end of the year FIFA will designate a Team of the Year on the basis of progress achieved up the Ranking table from January to December. The award winners for 1993 were Germany (best team) and Colombia (most improved team).

COCA-COLA AND FIFA

❒ The Coca-Cola Company have been associated with FIFA since 1975, and have been the exclusive soft drink sponsor of the World Cup since 1978.
❒ Coca-Cola are an official sponsor of World Cup US '94 — an agreement announced in September 1991.
❒ Coca-Cola also sponsor the World Youth Championship for the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup, as well as numerous football tournaments at all levels around the world.
❒ Coca-Cola also help promote football in developing countries through their "Futuro" programme, which provides grassroots teaching academies in developing countries prior to each World Cup.

COCA-COLA WORLD RANKING

Ranking as of March 15, 1994

Rank	Country	Pts
1	Germany	58.72
2	Brazil	58.27
3	Norway	58.05
4	Denmark	56.80
5	Switzerland	56.31
6	Spain	55.69
7	Sweden	55.22
8	Argentina	55.05
9	Holland	55.04
10	Romania	54.21
11	Italy	53.75
12	England	53.59
13	Republic of Ireland	52.74
14	Mexico	51.93
15	France	51.82
16	Russia	51.51
17	Uruguay	50.78
18	Nigeria	49.72
19	Portugal	49.25
20	Colombia	48.99
21	United States	46.95
22	Zambia	45.37
23	Bulgaria	45.02
24	Poland	44.63
25	Egypt	44.39
26	Cameroon	43.85
27	Wales	43.77
28	Ivory Coast	43.75
29	Morocco	43.59
30	Scotland	4201
31	Ghana	41.44
32	Tunisia	40.87
33	Belgium	40.79
34	Greece	39.62
35	Austria	39.60
36	Saudi Arabia	39.26
37	Algeria	37.79
38	Finland	36.60
39	Japan	36.44
40	South Korea	35.85
41	Zimbabwe	35.79
42	Northern Ireland	35.69
43	Iceland	35.55
44	Canada	35.40
45	Australia	34.80
46	Ecuador	34.39
47	Honduras	33.82
48	Costa Rica	33.43
49	China	33.30
50	United Arab Emirates	33.23
51	Turkey	32.39
52	Hungary	32.25
53	Qatar	32.24
54	Israel	32.14
55	Chile	31.53
56	Bolivia	31.50
57	Mali	31.00
58	Senegal	30.47
59	Iran	30.35
60	Slovakia	29.54
61	Gabon	29.08
62	Guinea	29.06
63	El Salvador	28.61
64	Paraguay	28.53
65	North Korea	28.49
66	Kuwait	28.39
67	Czech Republic	28.12
68	Iraq	27.94
69	Cyprus	26.12
70	Thailand	25.70
71	Malawi	25.31
72	Peru	24.25
73	Sierra Leone	24.08
74	Yugoslavia	24.05
75	Singapore	23.23
76	Jamaica	23.02
77	Zaire	22.88
78	Malta	22.30
79	Kenya	22.22
80	Niger	21.79
81	New Zealand	21.68
82	Bahrain	20.82
83	Oman	20.34
84	Malaysia	19.82
85	Syria	19.58
86	Lithuania	18.[illegible]
87	Bermuda	18.[illegible]
88	Jordan	17.[illegible]
89	Latvia	17.[illegible]
90	Ukraine	16.[illegible]
91	Yemen	15.[illegible]
92	South Africa	15.[illegible]
93	Trinidad & Tobago	15.[illegible]
94	Venezuela	15.[illegible]
95	Albania	15.[illegible]
96	Uganda	15.16
97	Puerto Rico	14.58
98	Ethiopia	14.4[illegible]
99	Hong Kong	13.9[illegible]
100	Tanzania	13.8[illegible]
101	Barbados	13.6[illegible]
102	Swaziland	13.3[illegible]
103	India	13.0[illegible]
104	Burkina Faso	12.9[illegible]
105	Madagascar	12.8[illegible]
106	Congo	12.3[illegible]
107	Burundi	12.1[illegible]
108	Indonesia	12.0[illegible]
109	Surinam	11.8[illegible]
110	Gambia	11.7[illegible]
111	Fiji	11.6[illegible]
112	Lebanon	11.4[illegible]
113	Estonia	11.2[illegible]
114	Myanmar	11.3[illegible]
115	Mozambique	10.9[illegible]
116	Luxembourg	10.7[illegible]
117	Guinea-Bissau	10.1[illegible]
118	Faroe Islands	9.6[illegible]
119	Bangladesh	9.5[illegible]
120	Antigua	9.3[illegible]
121	Sudan	8.9[illegible]
122	Togo	8.9[illegible]
123	Slovenia	8.7[illegible]
124	Angola	8.7[illegible]
125	Croatia	8.4[illegible]
126	San Marino	8.4[illegible]
127	Nepal	8.2[illegible]
128	Guatemala	8.0[illegible]
129	Sri Lanka	7.9[illegible]
130	Liberia	7.7[illegible]
131	Panama	7.4[illegible]
132	Grenada	7.3[illegible]
133	St Vincent & Grenadines	7.2[illegible]
134	Dutch Antilles	6.9[illegible]
135	Mauritius	6.5[illegible]
136	Benin	6.1[illegible]
137	Vietnam	5.0[illegible]
138	Guyana	4.8[illegible]
139	Lesotho	4.6[illegible]
140	Cayman Islands	4.3[illegible]
141	St Lucia	4.0[illegible]
142	Byelorussia	4.0[illegible]
143	Pakistan	3.7[illegible]
144	Tahiti	3.6[illegible]
145	Botswana	3.2[illegible]
146	Mauritania	3.0[illegible]
147	Haiti	2.9[illegible]
148	Laos	2.2[illegible]
149	Cape Verde Islands	2.1[illegible]
150	Maldives Republic	2.0[illegible]
151	Solomon Islands	1.9[illegible]
152	Brunei	1.6[illegible]
153	Dominican Republic	1.4[illegible]
154	Libya	1.4[illegible]
155	Nicaragua	0.4[illegible]
156	Georgia	0.4[illegible]
157	Namibia	0.3[illegible]
158	Seychelles	0.3[illegible]
159	Central African Republic	0.3[illegible]
160	Liechtenstein	0.3[illegible]
161	Cuba	0.3[illegible]
162	Chinese Taipei	0.2[illegible]
163	Equatorial Guinea	0.1[illegible]
164	Philippines	0.1[illegible]
165	Vanuatu	0.0[illegible]
166	Aruba	0.0[illegible]
167	Chad	0.0[illegible]
168	Macao	0.0[illegible]
169	St Kitts & Nevis	0.0[illegible]

● *Teams inactive since 1988 do not appear*

BY ERIC WEIL

'Make them train three times a day'

Coach and keeper . . . Lorenzo (left) with that charismatic character Hugo Gatti.

FOOTBALL in Argentina today is very poor, despite the national team's qualification for the World Cup. Nobody has time to breathe, with results coming first and everything else being overlooked.

And perhaps teams would do better if they trained three times a day, starting at six in the morning!

These are some of the views of Juan Carlos Lorenzo, who coached Argentina in the 1962 and 1966 World Cup competitions, and took Boca Juniors to their only Libertadores Cup victories, in 1977 and 1978.

Although the Boca team of that period — including such players as Gatti, Tarrantini and Mastrangelo — often were criticised for rough play, they showed a high level of skill as well. In 19 games during those two Copas, they lost only one.

Today, at 70, Lorenzo lives in a suburb of Buenos Aires, but he is not retired. He has a computer firm, writes articles on soccer for an evening paper, and sometimes advises Italian clubs about players.

Lorenzo started playing for a Second Division team, Nueva Chicago, when he was 16. He moved to First Division Chacarita Juniors and Boca Juniors (where he became famous as a strong midfielder) before following the trail to Europe to play for Sampdoria, Nancy and Atletico Madrid.

He was the first Argentinian to take a course under former England national coach Walter Winterbottom, and his skills were soon apparent with Majorca in Spain and then with San Lorenzo in Argentina. That landed him the supreme job of national team coach for the World Cup in 1962 (in Chile) and 1966 (in England).

Looking back on that infamous England v Argentina match in the quarter-finals in 1966, Lorenzo says that Argentina had a good team who could have been champions.

"The match against England was very even and Argentina lost because they could not score first. The first goal was always going to decide the game. But their big fault was that they lacked discipline. "Rattin should have shut up (referring to Antonio Rattin's dismissal which, many believe, lost the game for Argentine], but they could have won with or without Rattin if they had been more disciplined."

Perhaps calling them 'animals' was a bit exaggerated, says Lorenzo, but Argentina's behaviour was not right

After this match the Argentinian team were called "animals" by England coach Alf Ramsey. The name appeared in all the papers, and stuck.

"Perhaps calling them 'animals' was a bit exaggerated," says Lorenzo. "But Argentina's behaviour was not right."

When Lorenzo joined Boca, he ordered the players to train three times a day, starting at 6am, and made their game much more physical.

The way they kept going — and how many of them seemed to be finished as players when Lorenzo left — started the rumour that they were on drugs. Lorenzo laughed: "The other clubs were just jealous because of our success and probably started the rumour. They couldn't match our level of performance.

"This Boca team were a bunch of real men . . . just like my 1966 World Cup side.

"The game in Argentina today is very poor, but there are lots of reasons. The championships are short and breathless. Coaches can't work as they want to. Now they look for results first, then good play.

"Star players — those who haven't yet gone abroad — are strangled with tactics and hunted down with fouls. Coaches are not given time. A few bad results and they're out."

During his coaching days, Lorenzo occasionally got into trouble with referees, and he admits today's officials have problems. Javier Castrilli, he says, is the only one who strictly applies the rules. Clubs often complain when he is assigned to their matches.

"He can distinguish between intentional and unintentional fouls," says Lorenzo. "But on the whole today's championships are even because the best players with the best clubs can't show their skill. Rivals are only interested in kicking them off the field.'

Too true, Juan Carlos, too true!

● *BOCA's 1977 victory in the Libertadores Cup was achieved by a lot of hard labour. They played a total of 10 home-and-away games in the first round and semi-finals, winning six and drawing four, followed by three against Cruzeiro of Brazil in the final.*

Each team won 1-0 at home, so a play-off was arranged for Montevideo, Uruguay. This did not produce a goal, but involved a 5-4 shoot-out before Boca, at last, got their reward.

That gave them an automatic place in the next year's semi-final group. They won three and drew one before beating Deportivo Cali in the final, 4-0 at home following a 0-0 away draw.

BRAZIL

Bribery row – nine may go for trial

Pele's son . . . Santos goalkeeper Edinho.

FOUR officials and five referees have been accused following police investigations into the Rio League bribery scandal.

The officials include the Rio Federation president, Eduardo Viana, and Eurico Miranda, a director of the powerful Vasco da Gama Club.

The courts are now analysing the evidence to decide whether the nine should be sent for trial on charges connected with "fixing" the results of certain matches.

Police have sought permission to look into bank accounts of officials, referees and players, partly in relation to the scandal, but also checking on alleged tax evasion.

The Brazilian Federation (CBF) and the president, Ricardo Texeira, also were under investigation as a result of accusations related to TV contracts.

On a happier note, the crowds have returned to the reorganised Rio League, with Vasco da Gama beating Flamengo 3-1 in front of 107,000 at the refurbished Maracana stadium.

Unbeaten Vasco are running away with group A, in which they lead by five points after the first nine fixtures.

This season's championship is being played in two groups of six teams, but all 12 play each other. The top two of each group then advance to the final stage.

Fluminese dismissed coach Carlos Alberto Torres after only five games and topped group B at press time after beating Flamengo 4-2.

Brazil's other big State League is being fought out by Palmeiras, San Paulo and Corinthians — generally considered to be the country's strongest teams.

Sao Paulo beat Palmeiras 2-1, but have been rather erratic and have dropped points against weaker teams. One successful move by their coach, Tele Santana, was to convert striker Leonardo into an excellent scoring midfielder.

Pele's son Edinho, has had some good games in goal for Santos, but the cash-strapped club split their squad to raise cash with three games in Japan.

They are near the bottom of the 14-team First Division.

Injuries mar the big build-up

THIS is a busy time of year in Colombian football, with the advent of the new season, a whirlwind multi-country tour by the national side in preparation for the World Cup, and the beginning of the Libertadores Cup.

Certainly the Colombians are taking things seriously as far as the World Cup is concerned. The coaching staff got the squad together for the best part of a month, on a tour that took in such diverse opposition as Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Sweden.

The team stretched an unbeaten run that now goes back 27 games to July 1991.

The biggest blow came in Miami, against Sweden, with captain Carlos Valderrama sent off (left) and injured. He was told to rest for as long as possible.

Additionally there have been a series of niggling injuries to various players. Goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba, defenders Pedro Alvarez and Diego Osorio, midfielder Harold Lozano and forward Miguel Asprilla (Faustino's cousin, who had just broken on to the international scene) all suffered, with Osorio's knee the source of most concern.

Junior Barranquilla badly missed Valderrama's leadership in their Libertadores Cup games against Independiente Medellin and the Paraguayan clubs Olimpia and Cerro Porteno.

Domestically, the meaningful exchanges will not be coming until after July, but Millonarios from Bogotoa achieved a great early lift for their new coach, Vladimir Popovic, with an unlikely win at America Cali.

Popovic, the veteran Serbian who until recently was in charge of the Peruvian national side replaced Miguel Prince.

Popovic's cause will not be helped by the departure of international forward Ricardo Perez to America Cali. In exchange Millonarios received another international forward, Orlando Maturana. Peter Mendez, the injury-plagued Uruguayan international, has left Millonarios and joined Union Magdalena.

River Plate almost there

RIVER PLATE were on the verge of winning the opening championship of Argentina's National A Division's 1993-94 season with a one-point lead and one match to go, although five other clubs had mathematical chances.

Most clubs had showed erratic form during the tournament, which had been interrupted for a two-month summer break with only four games to go.

In the final weeks, River Plate coach Daniel Passarella caused a sensation by dropping national team goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea (right) after a couple of poor performances, but then brought him back after one game in which his substitute, Sodero, let in three goals.

Then Boca Juniors, who had been thrashed 6-1 by Brazil's Palmeiras in the Libertadores Cup in midweek, bounced back to beat Racing Club, another title candidate, 6-0.

This left Velez Sarsfield, Boca Juniors, Independiente, and San Lorenzo with realistic chances if River Plate lost their final game, against Argentinos Juniors.

The annual "friendly" summer tournament for the Gold Cup — moved from Mar del Plata to Mendoza because of complcations over venues, and played by the so-called "big five" clubs — was won by San Lorenzo for the third year running.

The Mendoza police and courts handled soccer hooligans better than their Buenos Aires counterparts.

A shoot-out between Boca and Independiente fans developed at one stage, several participants ended up with jail sentences, and Boca fans were not allowed into the province for their team's two remaining matches.

Two current internationals, striker Alberto Acosta (Boca Juniors) and midfielder Nestor Gorosito (San Lorenzo), were due to move to Universidad Catolica of Chile at the end of the Argentinian national opening championship.

Both are priced at two million dollars, which would be a record transfer for Chile.

ERIC WEIL

Man of the moment

Azkargorta changes Bolivian beliefs

XAVIER AZKARGORTA arrived in Bolivia at the beginning of last year to take over as coach of the national team — a job which could be described as being on a hiding to nothing — without any pomp.

His arrival was opposed by commentators and other coaches, who asked: "Why bring an unknown from Spain at some expense when there were better known coaches to choose from at home?"

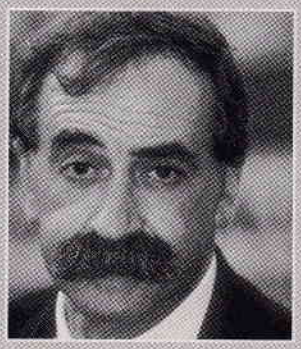
Today Azkargorta (right), affectionately known as the "Vasco Bigoton" (moustachioed Basque), is a national hero after taking Bolivia to the World Cup finals for the first time in 44 years. He lost 12 kilos doing it, dropping from 92 to 80.

"I am still not quite sure why the Bolivians wanted me," said Azkargorta, who is 40, a doctor, journalist and psychologist.

"Maybe they were looking for a polifunctional coach who could look after everything."

Azkargorta had coached four clubs in Spain but was running a clinic in Barcelona when Bolivian FA president Guido Loayza approached him.

First he refused the offer, then visited La Paz for a couple of days, liked what he saw, and accepted. But it was not easy and he certainly spoke his mind after a 2-1 defeat in Montevideo.



Uruguay had opened the score from a penalty after one of their forwards fell, but it did not appear to be a foul and in any case, happened outside the penalty area. The winner was scored after six minutes had been added to a game of few injuries.

Azkargorta did not say that there was some sort of campaign to stop Bolivia from qualifying, but pointed out: "If we had drawn in Uruguay we would have qualified together with Brazil and everything would have been over, but there was still one round to go.

"These would have been 'dead matches' and there would have been no value in televising them. The referee's decisions were suspicious."

Then there were rumours that Bolivia were not going to be allowed to play at home in La Paz, 3,600 metres above sea level, and that they were going to build a new stadium . . . 4,200 metres above sea level.

"Ridiculous," said Azkargorta. "The Brazilians always come out with things like that!"

Bolivia surprised the world by qualifying. How did it all happen?

"I am one of those who do not believe in giving too much importance to rivals, but to play the way we know," he said. "If we had worried about Brazil and Uruguay we would not have qualified."

He also offered his view of soccer in Argentina saying: "You are going through a stage in which the physical aspect is given more importance than the actual play.

"You should not run at football, but play at football, and you are running faster than you can play. Unfortunately today soccer is being played with too much conservation and not enough risks are taken.

"But we coaches have about 20 per cent importance in victory and 80 per cent importance in defeat."

Giant deals by Ecuador's top two

GUAYAQUIL's top teams, Emelec and Barcelona, who finished in the top two places last year, look like doing it again after heavy spending during the close season.

Emelec's $1.1million outlay on midfielder Walter Pico from Velez Sarsfield (Argentina) was a record for Ecuador and they also got Argentinian forward Juan Carlos Almada from Universidad Catolica of Chile for $900,000, and Brazilian striker Edu on loan.

An offer of a $1million for former Uruguayan international midfielder Pablo Bengoechea was refused by Penarol.

Barcelona bought Argentinian international striker Carlos Alfaro Moreno for $650,000 from Independiente. Former international defender Ruben Insua returned to them from the same club, and Chilean midfielder Jaime Pizarro came from Argentinos Juniors for $700,000.

Ecuador's clubs can sign four foreigners, with a maximum of three on the field at any one time, but there are only 26 in the 12-team First Division — 15 Argentinians, six Uruguayans, three Brazilians and one each from Chile and Colombia.

As for coaches, seven of the 12 are foreigners, but one of them, Emelec's Salvador Capitano — an Argentinian — has been dismissed.

Strangely this followed his team's win over Peruvian champions Universitario in the Libertadores Cup.

KEEPER CRUZ SETS RECORD

SANTOS from group one and Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara from group four clinched final places in the Mexican First Division, with four games of the regular season still to go.

The top two from each group play off for the title.

America did not look like clinching an automatic final place, as they trailed Toluca by six points in group three. They lost 4-0 to UA Guadalajara, whose goalkeeper, Alan Cruz, had just established a record of 686 unbeaten minutes. The record had been held by Nicholas Navarro of Necaxa with 683 minutes.

The leading scorer is international Carlos Hermosillo (right) of Cruz Azul, the team with the second-best record.

● **IN CHILE,** the pre-season Copa Chile tournament between First and Second Division clubs started with Colo Colo and Universidad drawing 1-1 in Santiago, provoking violent clashes between hooligan fans.
Cup-holders Union Espanola beat San Felipe 2-0 in their opening game in one of the six preliminary groups.

● **IN PERU, Ciclista Lima, returning to the professional First Division for the first time in 22 years, top their group in the opening championship (being played in two groups of eight teams each).**
The winner will represent Peru in the secondary continental competition, the CONMEBOL Cup, and take two bonus points into the First Division championship.
Champions Universitario, playing weak teams while engaged in the Libertadores Cup, are bottom of group B.
Miguel Angel Arrus, the Alianza Lima coach, was suspended for two months by the FA for biting a referee's shoulder during an argument.

● **IN BOLIVIA,** The Strongest finally won the 1993 Professional League title, with defending champions Bolivar second. Then the problems started. The Strongest refused to release their five players for the national team squad and were threatened by the FA that the club would not be entered for the Libertadores Cup.
Bolivar agreed to release eight players picked, but were bottom of one group of the 1994 championship and were considering withdrawing from both this tournament and the Libertadores Cup.
The La Paz classic between the two had finished 0-0, both clubs fielding virtual reserve teams.

● **IN GUATEMALA, Municipal were seven-point winners of the regular First Division from which the top six qualified for a final round. Defending champions Aurora inflicted their only defeat, 2-0, after 29 unbeaten games, and finished fifth.**

● **IN EL SALVADOR,** with five games to go in the regular championship, Luis Angel Firpo had clinched a top four play-off place and — with a seven-point lead over Alianza — were virtually sure to finish top.

ARGENTINA
National A Division — Opening Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	18	9	5	4	27	15	23
Velez Sarsfield	18	8	6	4	18	13	22
Boca Juniors	18	8	5	5	24	11	21
Independiente	18	7	7	4	26	19	21
San Lorenzo	18	8	5	5	23	18	21
Racing Club	18	7	7	4	20	19	21
Gimnasia	18	6	8	4	20	14	20
Lanus	18	5	10	3	21	18	20
Banfield	18	6	7	5	19	16	19
F C Oeste	18	4	10	4	16	18	18
Argentinos Juniors	18	4	9	5	22	19	17
Platense	18	4	9	5	22	23	17
Huracan	18	5	7	6	21	22	17
Dep. Mandiyu	18	5	6	7	24	23	16
Newell's Old Boys	18	3	9	6	15	22	15
Rosario Central	18	2	11	5	15	23	15
Belgrano Cordoba	18	4	7	7	17	29	15
Estudiantes	18	3	8	7	15	20	14
Gimnasia	18	4	6	8	15	25	14
Deportivo Espanol	18	3	8	7	7	19	14

Bottom relegation averages (over last three seasons — bottom two relegated at end of closing championship): Platense 0.925; Mandiyu 0.914; Argentinos Juniors 0.904; Newell's Old Boys 0.872; Estudiantes 0.861; Gimnasia y Tiro 0.77.

BRAZIL
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

RIO DE JANEIRO — 1st rnd
Group A: Vasco da Gama 17pts, Flamengo & Bangu 12, Volta Redonda 8, Madureira 7, Itapuerena 1
Group B: Fluminense 13, Botafogo 10, Americano 10, Olaria 8, America 5, Campo Grande 3.
Top two of each group play final stage, but teams play each other regardless of group

SAO PAULO STATE
1) Palmeiras; Corinthians 21pts; 3) Sao Paulo 20; 4) America 18; 5) Guarani 16; 6) Bragantino, Rio Branco 15; 8) Sao Andre 14; 9) Novorizontino 13; 10) Ferroviaria 12; 11) Santos 11; 12) Mogi Mirim, Ponte Preta 9; 14) Ituano 6.

BOLIVIA
Professional League — final round, final standings (1993)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
The Strongest	10	5	4	1	19	10	14
Bolivar	10	5	3	2	12	6	13
Blooming	10	5	2	3	19	14	12
San Jose	10	2	3	5	13	13	7
Oriente Petrolero	10	2	4	4	12	20	8
Indep. Petrolero	10	2	2	6	11	23	6

1994 CHAMPIONSHIP
Group A: 1) Blooming 6pts; 2) Jorge Wilsterman, Real Santa Cruz 5; 4) Destroyers 3; 5) Ciclon 2; 6) Bolibar 1.
Group B: 1) Independiente Petrolero 7; 2) Oriente Petrolero 6; 3) The Strongest, San Jose 4; 5) Guabira 1; 6) Metalsan 1.

PERU
OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP
(CONMEBOL Cup qualifers after 5 games)
Group A: 1) Sporting Cristal 8pts; 2)Leon de Huanuco, Deportivo Sipesa 7; 4) Aurich-Canana 6; 5) Alianza Limba, Cienciano 5; 7) San Agustin, Defensor Lima 1.
Group B: 1) Ciclista Lima 8; 2) Sport Boys, Carlos Manucci 7; 4) Melgar FCB 5; 5) Deportivo Municipal, Union Minas 4; 7) Alianza Atletico 3; 8) Universitario de Deportes 2.

MEXICO
First Division
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos*	34	14	13	7	50	46	41
Necaxa	34	10	15	9	51	46	35
Puebla	34	8	16	10	36	41	32
U. Guadalajara	34	8	12	14	38	52	28
U. Nuevo Leon	34	6	14	14	31	55	26

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlante	34	17	4	13	70	52	38
UNAM	34	13	8	13	52	40	34
Morelia	34	10	11	13	54	61	31
Leon	34	10	10	14	35	46	30
Queretaro	34	5	15	14	32	53	25

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	34	15	12	7	56	30	42
Toluca	34	16	9	9	47	28	41
America	34	15	5	14	58	46	35
Veracruz	34	10	10	14	44	56	30
Univ Tamaulipas	34	6	14	14	32	44	26

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UA Guadalajara*	34	16	15	3	45	21	47
Atlas	34	15	9	10	49	36	39
Guadalajara	34	13	12	9	40	31	38
Monterrey	34	11	11	12	52	64	33
UT Neza	34	10	10	14	41	59	30

*Top two of each group qualify for playoffs after four more games — teams marked * already qualified.*

GUATEMALA
First Division *(Regular championship final standings)*

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Municipal	22	14	7	1	35
Sacachispas	21	8	12	1	28
Comunicaciones	22	10	8	4	28
Suchitepequez	21	8	9	4	25
Aurora	22	8	9	5	25
Escuintla	22	7	8	7	22
Chiquimulilla	22	8	5	9	21
Mictlan	22	5	10	7	20
Izabal	22	5	9	8	19
Amatitlan	22	6	5	11	17
Xelaju	22	2	10	10	14
Juventud Retalteca	22	2	4	16	8

Top six play for title and bottom six to avoid relegation.

HONDURAS
First Division
After 22 games: 1) Real Espana 32 pts; 2) Olimpia 27; 3) Vida 23; 4) Victoria, Maraton, Platense 22; 7) Motagua 21; 8) Real Maya 19; 9) Progreseno 17; 10) Petrotela 15.

COSTA RICA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alajuelense	32	17	11	4	51	26	45
Cartago	32	11	16	5	39	25	38
Saprissa	32	13	12	7	44	37	38
Herediano	31	13	12	6	42	28	38
San Carlos	32	12	11	9	37	39	35
Limon	32	9	14	9	33	31	32
Puntarenas	32	9	13	10	43	40	31
San Ramon	32	10	10	12	23	32	30
Perez Zeledon	32	10	10	12	26	33	30
Belem	32	6	11	15	25	42	23
Turrialba	31	7	9	15	29	41	23
Carmelita	32	5	9	18	25	53	19

EL SALVADOR
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
L.A.Firpo	31	18	7	6	58	29	43
Alianza	31	14	8	9	48	30	36
FAS	31	12	11	8	39	35	35
Baygon-ADET	31	11	10	10	42	39	32
Tiburones	31	12	8	11	36	43	32
Atletico Marte	31	10	10	11	38	36	30
Municipal Limeno	31	10	10	11	39	39	30
Aguila	31	8	10	13	41	54	26
Cojutepeque	31	7	11	13	35	48	25
Apaneca	31	5	11	15	24	47	21

Top four qualify for final round after five more games.

VENEZUELA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caracas FC	20	11	6	3	32	18	28
Minerven	21	11	4	6	31	24	26
Italia	20	11	4	5	31	21	26
Trujillanos	20	9	7	4	38	23	25
Tachira	20	8	6	6	23	28	22
Mineros Guyana	20	8	6	6	30	20	22
Maritimo	20	10	2	8	34	26	22
El Vigia	20	8	5	7	27	24	21
Estudiantes	20	9	3	8	27	26	21
Llaneros	21	6	7	9	24	25	19
U. de los Andes	20	6	6	8	27	33	18
Monagas	20	6	6	8	28	35	18
Valencia	20	7	3	10	15	20	17
Maracaibo	20	4	8	8	19	38	16
Zamora	20	3	9	8	17	22	15
Anzoategui	20	1	4	15	20	49	6

1994 LIBERTADORES CUP

First Round
Group 1
(Colombia — Paraguay)

02.03.94 Olimpia (P) v Cerro Portena (P) 1-0
04.03.93 Junior (C) v Indep Medellin (C) 0-1
09.03.94 Indep Medellin v Olimpia 0-0
12.03.93 Junior v Olimpia 0-0
16.03.94 Indep Medellin v Cerro Porteno 3-0
18.03.94 Junior v Cerro Porteno 3-2
24.03.94 Indep Medellin v Junior 0-1
05.04.94 Olimpia v Indep Medellin
08.04.94 Cerro Porteno v Indep Medellin
12.04.94 Olimpia v Junior
15.04.94 Cerro Porteno v Junior

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	4	2	2	0	4	1	6
Indep Medellin	4	2	1	1	4	1	5
Junior Barranqilla	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Cerro Porteno	4	0	0	4	3	10	0

Group 2
(Argentina — Brazil)

13.02.94 Velez (A) v Boca Juniors (A) 1-1
02.03.94 Palmeiras (B) v Cruzeiro (B) 2-0
09.03.94 Cruzeiro v Velez Sarsfield 1-1
09.03.94 Palmeiras v Boca Juniors 6-1
16.03.94 Boca Juniors v Cruzeiro 1-2
17.03.94 Velez Sarsfield v Palmeiras 1-0
23.03.94 Boca Juniors v Velez Sarsfield 1-2
25.03.94 Cruzeiro v Palmeiras
30.03.94 Velez Sarsfield v Cruzeiro
31.03.94 Boca Juniors v Palmeiras
06.04.94 Cruzeiro v Boca Juniors
07.04.94 Palmeiras v Velez Sarsfield

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velez Sarsfield	4	2	2	0	5	3	6
Palmeiras	3	2	0	1	8	2	4
Cruzeiro	3	1	1	1	3	4	3
Boca Juniors	4	0	1	3	4	11	1

Group 3
(Ecuador — Peru)

02.03.94 Universitario (P) v Alianza (P) 0-1
02.03.94 Emelec (E) v Barcelona (E) 0-1
08.03.94 Barcelona v Universitario 0-0
11.03.94 Emelec v Universitario 2-0
15.03.94 Barcelona v Alianza 3-0
18.03.94 Emelec v Alianza 3-0
23.03.94 Alianza v Universitario 1-2
23.03.94 Barcelona v Emelec 0-1
05.04.94 Alianza v Barcelona
08.04.94 Universitario v Barcelona
12.04.94 Alianza v Emelec
15.04.94 Universitario v Emelec

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Emelec	4	3	0	1	6	1	6
Barcelona	4	2	1	1	4	1	5
Universitario	4	1	1	2	2	4	3
Alianza	4	1	0	3	2	8	2

Group 4
(Chile — Uruguay)

02.03.94 U. Espanola (C) v Colo Colo (C) 1-2
02.03.94 Defensor (U) v Nacional (U) 1-0
08.03.94 Union Espanola v Defensor 1-0
13.03.94 Colo Colo v Defensor 2-0
15.03.94 Union Espanola v Nacional 1-0
18.03.94 Colo Colo v Nacional 4-2
23.03.94 Colo Colo v Union Espanola 3-1
23.03.94 Nacional v Defensor 1-1
05.04.94 Defensor v Colo Colo
08.04.94 Nacional v Colo Colo
12.04.94 Defensor v Union Espanola
15.04.94 Nacional v Union Espanola

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	4	4	0	0	11	4	8
Union Espanola	4	2	0	2	4	5	4
Defensor	4	1	1	2	2	4	3
Nacional	4	0	1	3	3	7	1

Group 5
(Bolivia — Venezuela)

23.02.94 Minerven (V) v Maritimo (V) 2-1
23.02.94 Bolivar (B) v The Strongest (B) 0-0
01.03.94 Minerven v Bolivar 1-1
04.03.94 Maritimo v Bolivar 0-2
08.03.94 Minerven v The Strongest 5-0
11.03.94 Maritimo v The Strongest 1-1
16.03.94 The Strongest v Bolivar 0-0
22.03.94 Bolivar v Minerven 4-0
26.03.94 The Strongest v Minerven
05.04.94 Bolivar v Maritimo
08.04.94 The Strongest v Maritimo

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar (B)	5	2	3	0	7	1	7
Minerven (V)	5	2	1	2	9	10	5
Maritimo (V)	4	1	1	2	6	6	3
The Strongest (B)	4	0	3	1	1	6	3

Second Round
First Leg — Wednesday, April 20
Second Leg — Wednesday, April 27

Quarter-finals
First Leg — Wednesday, July 27
Second Leg — Wednesday, Aug 3

Semi-finals
First Leg — Wednesday, Aug 10
Second Leg — Wednesday, Aug 17

Final
First Leg — Wednesday, Aug 24
Second Leg — Wednesday, Aug 31

BROOKING talkback

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters. . .

What you think about football's big issues? Now you don't even need to write a letter. Just pick up the phone DIAL: 0891 311665 and record your opinions,Trevor Brooking will answer a selection each month on this page
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Calls cost 36p minute chaep rate and 48p minute at all other times.

Few surprises

TREVOR — Looking through the World Cup squads, countries such as Bulgaria will be happy with one victory to break their duck, the proper pronunciation of the Greek names will be the biggest worry for their opponents, while Bolivia have been working hard on their nicknames.

Realistically, though, only three or four countries have any real chance of winning the World Cup, or do you see one or two surprises?

— TREVOR BLAND, Billingham, Cleveland.

❒ CERTAINLY the stronger countries have obvious qualities which make them difficult to ignore. Germany, Italy and Holland look best from Europe, with Brazil always a popular choice from South America. As far as surprise contenders, Colombia could be exciting. The African challenge should emerge again.

Why the ban?

TREVOR — Can someone explain why FIFA wish to ban the tackle from behind? A tackle from behind is as fair as a tackle from the front or the side. A foul from behind, however, is a different matter, and offenders who play the man when there is no way for them to get the ball should indeed be punished.

The tackle from behind is quite an art in itself and FIFA should be concentrating their nit-picking towards players who feign injury and dive for penalties in order to get opponents sent-off.

But on the subject of who could replace the lamentable Havelange, administrators of football the world over seem lacking in any knowledge or common sense, and motivated only by money.

— M WRIGHT, Ipswich, Suffolk.

❒ OF COURSE the political in-fighting often encourages personalties to come forward with changes they believe will boost their popularity. The tackle from behind, which takes out the player before making contact with the ball certainly should be outlawed. But you are quite right when you say this should not mean every tackle from behind, as a defender is capable of winning possession without fouling. The debate will heighten during the World Cup.

Power barrier

TREVOR — Having read the article from *USA Today* (March). I was astonished to find out the attitude of the American press. Mr Tom Weir did justify his point about having "fast" quick sports which require a greater amount of power than football, but doesn't the American press realise they are staging a major event in sports history?

Soccer isn't a "stop-start" game like American football, or scored 87-100 like basketball.

The American press should appreciate what they are staging, because I can name a number of countries that would love to host the World's greatest football tournament.

— ROY BEEHARRY, Edmonton, London.

❒ SOCCER continues to struggle to penetrate the powerful barriers erected within the American press. Their top sports of Basketball, Gridiron and Baseball are understandably not going to stand casually aside while this summer's World Cup strives to make the necessary impact on the population. For the American public to enjoy the World Cup, they really need to appreciate the skills on offer.

Uphill battle

TREVOR — Not all Americans are ignorant when it comes to football. Millions of my fellow Americans feel the way I do and rushed out to buy World Cup tickets as soon as they were available.The fight to educate and inform the masses is an unending uphill battle, the biggest obstacle being the media. Currently youth football is tops in the nation among its counterparts. The fan base is definitely there for a big time pro league which will rival any other US ports league.

— PATRICK DAVILA, Staten Island, New York, US.

❒ MY reply to Roy Beeharry indicates complete harmony with your thoughts on the American media being the biggest obstacle, because it is so influenced currently by the popular US sports. Youth football in American for both girls and boys has immense backing, but soccer will continue to struggle until you can create a voluntary amateur structure for adults.

Walker walkout

TREVOR — Mike Walker moved to Everton for rumoured better conditions i.e. financial reward. He probably deserves these better conditions for his excellent work at Norwich.

The big question is: would Walker have been so keen to move if Norwich were still in the UEFA Cup?

— BARRIE ROGERSON, Dukinfield, Cheshire.

❒ EXIT from the UEFA Cup definitely brought matters to a head. Walker's contract was due to run out in the summer, and there is no doubt he deserved a significant improvement from his previous terms, among the lowest in the Premier League. Norwich had made large profits from Europe and Walker wanted an indication that he might be given some of those profits to strengthen his squad. Unfortunately nothing was forthcoming, and without the hint of any encouragement, I can understand his frustration.

Penalty penance

TREVOR — Southend United, the club I support, were knocked out of the Anglo-Italian Cup on penalties at Notts County. I do not object to shoot-outs, but what was annoying was the fact that the kicks were taken at the goal in front of the Notts County supporters.

I would like to see each team take their kicks in front of their own supporters at opposite ends of the pitch. With so much at stake these days, this would make shoot-outs fairer.

— JEFF SHARP, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

❒ IT IS far easier to control a shoot-out at one end of the ground, and although this may slightly favour the side taking kicks near their supporters. I don't see it as a major advantage.

British best

TREVOR — I endorse the views of contributors who previously made a case for there to be a representative Great Britain team at World Cup level.

I can see nothing wrong with the Home Countries remaining separate for domestic competition within the British Isles. But are these valid claims really for them to be given equal status with national sides in international competition?

This anachronism seems to be simply the residue of Britain's power in former times when its sports administrators were pre-eminent in framing the rules under which many sports were conducted.

Such rules permit Britain still to have more than one vote on FIFA's International Board. Apparently retention of this privilege is viewed favourably by British Football officialdom.

Sadly, it appears that board-room influence precedes performance on the playing field.

— NEVILLE STREETE, W Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

❒ THIS is an old discussion point, and done on which I have always sided with the opposite camp to yourself. I still believe the Home Countries should remain separate.
But at a time when many parts of Europe are being fragmented, there seems little justification for reducing our numbers.

JAPAN BY MIKE PLASTOW AND MICHI ISHIJIMA

Hasek looks the part as Baxter builds

THE J.LEAGUE resumed after the shortest of close-season breaks, but the teams look refreshed — none more so than Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

Sanfrecce always play attractive football with manager Stuart Baxter believing in disciplined, flowing soccer.

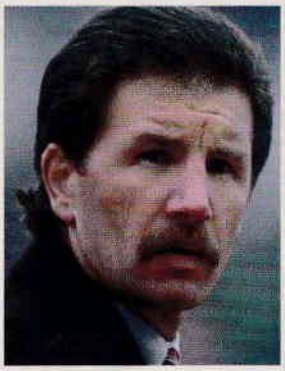
His team won the Fair Play Award last year, but since then have been hit by injuries, and lack replacements.

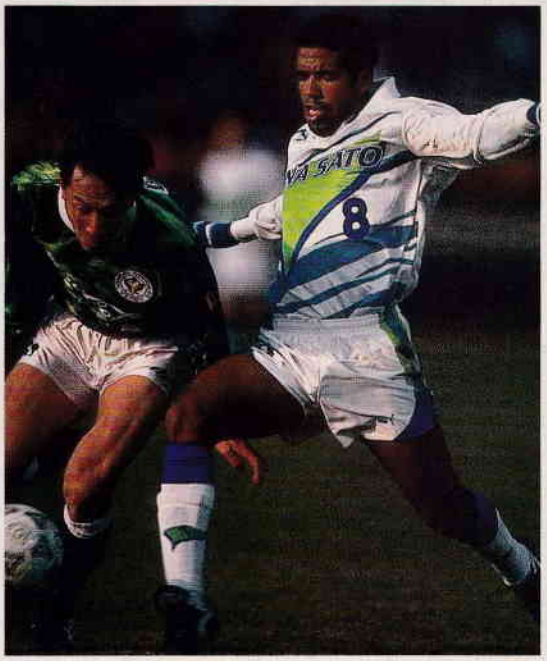
Injury to veteran defender Hiroshi Matsuda, in a friendly with Brondby of Denmark, did not help.

But 40-year-old Baxter, starting the third year of his three-year contract, may now reap the rewards of his steady efforts at one of the J.League's low-budget, low-profile sides, thanks largely to the arrival of Czech World Cup player Ivan Hasek from Strasbourg.

Hasek has introduced a new rhythm and versatility, taking markers away from Takagi and Noh and creating chances for sharpshooters such as midfielder Takumi Shima. The extra pressure relieves the defence, too.

Sanfrecce's first match was with Gordon Milne's Nagoya Grampus Eight. Neither made headway in the first half on a rain-swept, waterlogged pitch, but Sanfreece took total control after Hasek went on at the break.





Reaping the rewards . . . Baxter (above) and Valber (right).

The turning point came three minutes from the end, when Noh's curling shot found the top corner.

Hasek then scrambled an extra-time winner against Gamba Osaka, and netted the vital second goal in the 2-1 victory over Yokohama Flugels.

Sanfrecce's place at the top is precarious, but the victory over Emperor's Cup-winners Yokohama Flugels, now reinforced by Brazilian Valber, shows that they are a force. The J.League's fairest team have discovered some penetration, too.

Kashima Antlers have recovered the form that won the first stage last year, combining a tight backline with rapid attacks. The key innovation is to pull back former national team centre-forward Hisashi Kurosaki to support Alcindo Sartori and Yoshiyuki Hasegawa from midfield. The opposing defenders seem confused about who needs watching most.

The results speak for themselves, with victories over Verdy Kawasaki and Yokohama Marinos.

Both the decisive goals were scored by Alcindo, top scorer in last year's first stage.

Shimizu S Pulse, reinforced by Ronaldo from Sao Paulo, look nearly invincible in defence.

Ronaldo, affectionately known as Robocop, got on the scoresheet with a header from a corner against Bellmare Hiratsuka.

Shimizu S Pulse look sharp in front with Akihiro Nagashima's arrival from Gamba Osaka and Toninho's return from injury.

Verdy Kawasaki are still struggling to plug the defensive gap left by Dutchman Erick Van Rossum's departure. Paulo, the Brazilian defender brought in to replace him, was dropped for the 3-2 home victory over Jubilo Iwata.

Newcomers doing well

JAPAN is anything but a rest home for football's has-beens.

Newcomers this year include **Ramon Medina Bello (27)**, a current Argentinian international, at Yokohama Marinos, and two Brazilians who may make the trip to the US: **Ronaldo (28)**, at Shimizu S Pulse, and **Valber (22)**, at Yokohama Flugels.

They join Brazilian internationals such as **Almir (24)** at Bellmare Hiratsuka, **Elivelton (22)** at Nagoya Grampus Eight and **Bismarck (24)** at Verdy Kawasaki.

Medino Bello, teaming up with Argentina and former River Plate colleagues **Ramon Diaz (34)** and **Gustavo Zapata (26)**, had a dream start. He hit the bar in the first five minutes against Urawa Red Diamonds and then headed in a cross from Diaz.

But Marinos have struggled since, losing 1-0 to Bellmare in the biggest upset so far, then going down to Antlers by the same score.

Almir has looked superb for Bellmare Hiratsuka. He scored the winner against Marinos and helped in the goals against Verdy and Shimizu. But the problems in defence are so bad that Almir will not be looking for any trophies this year.

The same goes for **Oleg Protasov (29)**, the Soviet Union striker whose debut for Gamba was a 6-0 thrashing in a friendly against Internacional of Brazil, followed by a 5-1 crushing by JEF United Ichihara.

Valber has had a mixed time at Flugels. A strong performance and a goal against Verdy in the Xerox Super Cup were followed by a series of missed opportunities.

But his presence has enlivened Amarilla, Edu and Masakiyo Maezoni in attack, and the team are better than their position suggests.

Ask any Japanese about the season's newest, brightest face, and you will get only one answer: Shoji Jo, JEF's 18-year-old striker.

He graduated from senior high school on March 1 but has scored a goal a game. To put it mildly, the media and the fans adore him.

Jo is pleasantly unassuming. "I still make lots of mistakes", he says. "I can only go one step at a time."

But as far as the media are concerned, Jo walks on water.

Row over refs

THE Sanwa Bank Cup was organised by the football associations of Japan and Argentina, between the winners of the J.League Suntory Championship and Argentina's centenary tournament.

Verdy Kawasaki held Gimnasia y Esgrima 2-2 thanks to two spectacular wind-assisted goals (direct from a corner by Kazuyoshi Miura and a long, long half-volley by Bismarck), then showed the advantages of regular practice in J.League shoot-outs by slotting home their first four penalties, against only two in reply.

The Xerox Super Cup is modelled on the FA Charity Shield, minus the charity. Verdy, the J.League champions, beat Emperor's Cup-winners Yokohama Flugels 2-1, but the game was marred by controversy in the final minute when the referee waved play on after Verdy's Kato handled a shot from Edu in the area.

The quality of refereeing was one of the big issues of the J.League's first year. It's a pity that the new season should kick off with yet another controversy.

J.LEAGUE — SUNTORY SERIES (1ST STAGE)

	P	W	L	F	A
Shimizu S Pulse	3	3	0	7	1
Sanfreece Hiroshima	3	3	0	6	2
Kashima Antlers	3	3	0	4	1
Verdy Kawasaki	3	2	1	9	5
JEF United Ichihara	3	2	1	9	7
Yokohama Flugels	3	1	2	5	4
Yokohama Marinos	3	1	2	2	2
Jubilo Iwata	3	1	2	3	4
Gamba Osaka	3	1	2	4	7
Bellmare Hiratsuka	3	1	2	3	9
Urawa Red Diamonds	3	0	3	2	7
Nagoya Grampus Eight	3	0	3	0	5

J LEAGUE RESULTS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26

SANWA BANK CUP

VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Miura 51, Bismarck 80)
GIMNASIA (ARG) 2 (Cuerra 28, Gui Barros Schelotto 64). **Att:** 45,617.
Verdy win 4-2 on pens

SATURDAY MARCH 5

XEROX SUPER CUP

VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Takeda 44, Bismarck 77)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Valber 63). **Att:** 51,154.

SATURDAY MARCH 12

VERDY KAWASAKI 5 (Takeda 2, Bismarck 19, 30, Kitazawa 39, Hashiratani 68)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Noguchi 50). **Att:** 50,843.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Medina Bello 53, Noda 89)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
Att: 13,991.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Hasegawa 30)
JUBILO IWATA 0. **Att:** 13,990.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Nagashima 88)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 0. **Att:** 10,071.

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 5 (Jo 24, Ordenewitz 32, 77, Igarashi 75, Echigo 80)
GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Yamagushi 88). **Att:** 10,044.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Noh 87, Takagi 89)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0
Att: 11,503.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16

KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Santos 22, Alcindo 104)
VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Takeda 60). **Att:** 14,181.

JUBILO IWATA 1 (Oishi 80)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0
Att: 13,529.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Almir 110)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0
Att: 16,131.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 4 (Amarilla 1, Otake 22, Edu 47, Maezono 61)
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 1 (Jo 79). **Att:** 13,028.

GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Yamaguchi 44)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Shima 71, Hasek 118). **Att:** 18,737.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Sawanobori 14, Hasegawa 21). **Att:** 9,200.

SATURDAY MARCH 19

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0
GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Protasov 15, Mita 62). **Att:** 11,519.

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 3 (Littbarski 22, Jo 87, Echigo 89)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 2 (Mizuuchi 28, Hori 69). **Att:** 9,837.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Shima 40, Hasek 51)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Valber 58). **Att:** 11,387.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 4 (Sawanobori 9, 72, Ronaldo 11, Mukojima 61)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Betinho 54). **Att:** 10,285.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0
KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Alcindo 53). **Att:** 14,055.

VERDY KAWASAKI 3 (Miura 3, Takeda 22, 64)
JUBILO IWATA 2 (Nakayama 36, Suzuki 54). **Att:** 54,657.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudis take two-goal lead

CHAMPIONS Al Qadisiyah, coached by former European Championship winner Jan Pivarnik of Czechoslovakia, put one hand on the Asian Cup-winners Cup in a thrilling first-leg win.

They beat South China 4-2 in the newly-opened Hong Kong Stadium, after the sides had been level with five minutes left.

Then goalkeeper Leung Cheuk-Cheung blundered badly, setting up Mohammed Al-Farhan to score, and skipper Ku Kam-Fai was sent off for a penalty-box professional foul, allowing Saleh Al Qanbar to score from the spot and give the Saudis a two-goal lead for the second leg.

Only a few moments after the final whistle, Pivarnik was talking terms with South China's classy Surinamese defender, Marcel Liesdek.

"It's nice of him to show an interest, but I like Hong Kong," Liesdek was quoted as saying.

ASIAN SUPER CUP

Super Cup in store

THE Asian Football Confederation have promised a new Asian Super Cup, along the lines of UEFA's tournament of the same name, to add to the AFC's two club tournaments.

"We will be starting the competition in 1995 for the winners of this season's two competitions," said general secretary Peter Velappan.The winners would be in line for a $100,000 first prize, to add to the $50,000 each team would win for taking either the Asian Club Championship or Cup-winners Cup.

MALAYSIA

Bookies blamed

PENANG's state side have blamed four of their own players for taking bribes.

The team conceded 12 goals in two games and so failed to make the quarter-finals of the Malaysian FA Cup.

"We have received telephone calls and you can rest assured that we are in the know," said team deputy president Dr Ibrahim Saad.

The allegations follow widely-publicised comments from AFC general secretary Peter Velappan (right) blaming two Chinese teams for taking money from bookmakers and fixing results.

In his outspoken criticism Velappan noted that he was most concerned to see the problem had spread to China from South-East Asia, where it was most prevalent.

Asian match-fixing is not done to secure promotion or avoid relegation but to enable bookies to control results. People gamble widely on soccer in Asia.

CHINA

CHINESE TO SEE STARS

THREE of the world's top club sides have been invited to play in China.

Italy's Milan and Sampdoria (below) and Brazil's Vasco da Gama have had offers from a Chinese hotel group, based in the southern boom town of Shenzhen, who have ploughed $500,000 into the venture, according to reports.

Although key players are likely to be committed to World Cup preparations, the Chinese media are giving the arrival wide publicity.

They have been lined up to a play exhibition matches against one another, local Chinese teams and the Chinese Olympic squad.

GULF CUP

Al Shabab are top in the Gulf

AL SHABAB of Saudi Arabia won the Gulf Co-operation Council Cup tournament, held in Kuwait City, by a single point.

The competition,the 11th to date, was played on a round-robin basis between six clubs, and Al Shabab drew one and lost one of their five games before winning the last three in a row.

Said Al Owairan, one of six internationals in the team, scored four of his club's eight goals in his three appearances, to ensure that Al Shabab won the title for the third season in a row.

Al Arabi of Kuwait, coached by former Chelsea manager Bobby Campbell, were the only team not to lose, but wasted points by being held to four draws.

Al Ittihad of Qatar were third on goal difference ahead of Zofar of Oman, both taking five points.

Al Moharraq of Bahrain finished fifth with four points, and Al Wasl of the United Arab Emirates were last, having drawn three games and lost two.

MOHAMED CHBARRO

ASIAN FOOTBALL

Official Sponsors – Supporting Asian

INDIA

Bengal's national title

BENGAL defied all the odds to reach the final and then win the National Games, the inter-state competition, held in Bombay.

They beat Maharashtra 3-2 on penalties in the semi-final, despite having to play for 40 minutes with only nine men.

Their substitute had gone on before both Chapman and Ranjan went off with injuries, but they held out for a 0-0 draw after extra time.

In the final they drew 1-1 with Kerala, who equalised in injury time. So again the Bengalis faced extra time and penalties, and again they won the shoot-out 3-2, with Tanumoy Bose saving three of the kicks.

Kerala had reached the final by defeating Punjab by the only goal.

The dangers of ground-sharing were demonstrated after East Bengal regained the Indian League title from their greatest rivals, Mohun Bagan.

The clubs share the Calcutta Maidan arena, and violence erupted after East Bengal's final match there. They beat Port Trust 2-0, so condemning Mohun Bagan to second place, but violence broke out between some rival fans, with brawls, bricks thrown, and a car burned.

Mohun Bagan, who lost their final chance to make up the deficit when held 1-1 by Mohammedan Sporting, eventually finished three points behind.

Calcutta's "big two" had dominated the ten-club Super Division, as usual. East Bengal won 16 and drew two of their 18 games, conceding only three goals, and Mohun Bagan had an almost identical record.

Both have won the title 22 times, and in the past 12 years East Bengal have been top seven times and Mohun Bagan five.

Norwegian club Lyn Oslo visited India during their winter break to play three matches against representative teams, and drew 0-0 in Jamshedpur and 1-1 in Calcutta before winning 3-1 in Goa. Total gates topped 100,000.

G.C. DAS

INDIAN LEAGUE — *Super Division*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
East Bengal	18	16	2	0	35	3	50
Mohun Bagan	18	15	2	1	35	5	47
Mohammedan SC	18	11	4	3	28	10	37
Eastern Railways	18	5	5	8	12	15	20
Railway FC	18	5	5	8	12	23	20
Port Trust	18	4	7	7	12	16	19
George Telegraphs	18	5	3	10	10	29	18
Tollygunge Agragami	18	4	4	10	14	23	16
Yugasanti	18	3	7	8	10	23	16
Behala Youth	18	0	5	13	6	30	5

SINGAPORE

Guest clubs in action

PLANS by Singapore's football officials to launch an Asian soccer league took a step forward with the kick-off of the local league featuring two sides from Australia.

Darwin and Perth Kangaroos are playing alongside Singapore's long-established club sides such as Geylang International, Gibraltar and Jurong Town, as a first step towards inviting other foreign clubs into the same competition.

Singapore's own club football is nearing something of a crisis because of the suffocating interest in the Malaysian-based M-League, in which Singapore is represented by a non-national team "super club" called Singapore.

SYRIA

Hooligans ruin the season

WIDESPREAD crowd trouble has led the Syrian Government to disband the local government-funded Football Association, saying they were not taking hooliganism seriously enough.

The Syrian League was 14 rounds into a 26-week season with Al Hurriya six points clear of Tishreen when the axe dropped.

Crowd troubles had dominated the first half of the season, with fans from rival teams battling both in and outside grounds.

The government committee, surely no soft touch if the country's human rights record is anything to go by, had been specifically ordered to crush the problem before the end of the season.

FOOT NOTES

● **QATAR . . .** Al Arabi have won the local national league title for the third consecutive year. The team recently reached the semi-finals of the Asian Cup-winners Cup.

● **LEBANON . . .** the country's most famous club, Al Ansar, have gone through a shocking loss of form, by their own high standards, in the local league: two points from their last four games.

● **KUWAIT . . .** the newly-formatted Premier Division kicked off with eight clubs divided into two groups of four for the initial round-robin competition.

● **UAE . . .** an Al Jazeera player has been suspended indefinitely and another banned for a year after a referee was attacked for awarding a penalty to Al Ahli during a recent club match in the Emirates. The ref was carried off and the match abandoned, with Al Ahli declared 2-0 winners by the FA.

THAILAND

Rich harvest for Farmers

THE unheralded Thai Farmers side surprised Asian football by taking the Asian Club Championship title with a 2-1 win over Omani of Oman in Bangkok.

The Thai side (average playing wage £170 per month), took on and beat some of the best and richest sides in Asia, including under-strength J.League champions Verdy Kawasaki. Farmers beat them in extra time, 3-1, in the semi-finals.

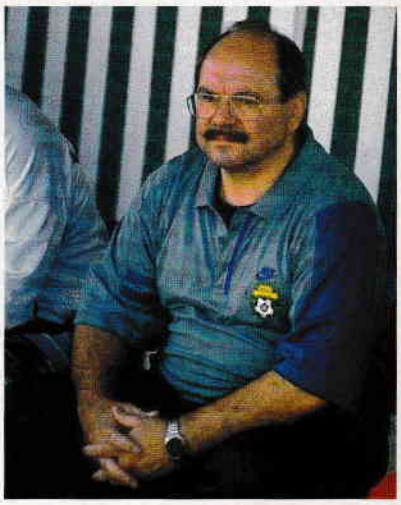
AFC Club tournaments normally have been the preserve of either Middle Eastern or North Asian sides.

Thai Farmers are the first South-East Asian club to take the title, first contested in 1967.

They now represent Asia in this year's annual Afro-Asia Club Championships between the top club sides of the two regional confederations

Thailand's Olympic side put four unanswered goals past German amateurs Westfalen in the finals of the annual King's Cup competition, which was more notable for the failure of the much-touted Chinese "team of the future". The cock-eyed nature of the tournament, involving a national side, a professional club, an amateur club and three Under-23 teams, played into the hands of the local favourites.

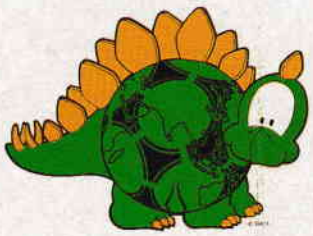
The tournament certainly proved too much for Klaus Schlappner's Chinese side. The veteran German coach (below) had planned to spearhead a World Cup qualifying campaign in 1997. But the Chinese, the defending champions, failed to get past the preliminary round.



CONFEDERATION

SANYO MILD SEVEN SNICKERS Canon FUJI FILM Clarion

Football, the Game of the Future.



SAT 29 JAN

ACTION: The United States draw 1-1 with Russia in the Kingdome in Seattle . . . Paris Saint-Germain, bidding to defy a survey of league personalities which voted 72 per cent in favour of Marseille winning the French title, maintain their four-point lead by winning 2-0 at Caen . . . in Spain, Atletico Madrid beat Valencia 2-0 in the Crisis Match of the Season.

SUN 30 JAN

ACTION: Manchester United maintain their progress towards a unique English treble by winning 2-0 away to Norwich in the fourth round of the FA Cup thanks to goals from Keane and Cantona . . . Milan stay four points clear of Juventus and Sampdoria in Italy thanks to a 1-0 win at Atalanta, Massaro scoring the decisive goal . . . Benfica crash 2-1 to Belenenses in the Portuguese Cup while Porto win 2-0 at Salgueiros . . . in Spain, no change at the top where La Coruna beat Gijon and Barcelona beat Albacete, both by 2-1. Real Madrid draw 0-0 away to Valladolid.

CAMEROON: Roger Milla scores on his comeback in a 2-2 draw between his new club, Tonnerre of Yaounde, in a 2-2 draw with Canon in front of a 65,000 crowd.

UNITED STATES: Walt Disney Co quits negotiations to produce the World Cup opening ceremony on June 17. Jam Productions, the Chicago promoters who lost out to Disney in original bidding, says it has been contacted by organisers but may decline to step in because of the short notice.

MON 31 JAN

BELGIUM: The Belgian Federation and government announce that a professional stewarding system is to be created, starting with the top-of-the-table clash between Anderlecht and Club Brugge on March 6.

ENGLAND: ***Roy Evans (above),*** former reserve team coach, is appointed manager of Liverpool in succession to Graeme Souness.

FRANCE: Monaco defender Luc Sonor accuses Marseille players of acting like hooligans in the wake of last Friday's match which Marseille won 2-1 despite the expulsion, for the second successive week, of defender Jocelyn Angloma.

PORTUGAL: FC Porto are down at home to Aves in the quarter-finals of the Portuguese Cup . . . Benfica's Russian defender ***Vasili Kulkov (right)*** escapes with minor injuries from an early-morning car crash in Lisbon but the driver of the car is seriously injured.

RUSSIA: Italian dairy products group Parmalat signs up as sponsors of Moscow Dynamo, the company's sixth club contract after Parma, Videoton, Boca Juniors, Penarol and Palmeiras.

UKRAINE: Oleg Protasov, who has just agreed a transfer from Olympiakos in Greece to Gamba Osaka in Japan, says he is ready and willing to play for the new Ukrainian national team and is surprised he has not already been approached.

TUE 1 FEB

ACTION: Japanese champions Verdy Kawasaki move closer to the Asian Club Cup semi-finals by defeating Omani by Oman 1-0 in Bangkok.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona, admitting only that he is injured and depressed, quits Newell's Old Boys, placing his World Cup prospects in extreme doubt.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Edgar Schmitt . . .

whose eight goals have taken little Karlsruhe to the brink of the UEFA Cup final.

GERMANY: Franz Beckenbauer will take charge of the World All-Star team to play a Russia XI in an exhibition match at the end of the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg in August.

ITALY: Danish midfielder Thomas Helveg of OB Odense has his loan period with Udinese extended until the end of the season.

SPAIN: New disaster for Real Madrid as they have three players sent off and crash 3-0 at home in their Cup quarter-final return against Tenerife. Madrid lose 5-1 on aggregate.

SWITZERLAND: Striker Marco Grassi, who refused to play for Zurich in the relegation play-offs, signs on loan with Servette until the end of the season. Servette also have an option to renew for 12 months . . . UEFA says that the 1995-96 UEFA Cup will include four teams qualifying from the summer pools competition, the International Football Cup or Inter-toto.

WED 2 FEB

ACTION: Parma win 2-0 after extra time in the Stadio Meazza to defeat Milan 2-1 on aggregate in the European Supercup . . . the Dunhill Cup opens in Kuala Lumpur with a 3-3 draw between Denmark and Norway and a 0-0 draw between Japan and Malaysia . . . Mexico crash 4-1 to Russia in Oakland, California.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona barricades himself in his country home and opens fire with an air gun against reporters besieging him after his sacking by Newell's Old Boys. Four journalists are struck by pellets from the gun.

CHINA: Clubs are given clearance to sign foreign players — up to three per club — for the first time.

UNITED STATES: Tampa Bay Rowdies, the longest-running professional franchise in the US, cease trading after coming out on the "wrong" side in the politicking over the new pro league . . . Walt Disney Co is now revealed by the World Cup organisers to have withdrawn as Opening Ceremony creators because of artistic differences. US '94 spokesman Jim Trecker says: "It was never a financial dispute at all. The dialogue centred as to how much of the show would be Disney-focused and how much World Cup-focused."

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven bid for new the Brazilian starlet Ze Elias Moendin, 17, who plays for the Corinthians club from Sao Paulo.

BELGIUM: Croatian Josip Weber's application for Belgian citizenship passes its penultimate stage when it is approved by Belgian Senate Committee.

SWITZERLAND: The Swiss Federation improve their offer of pay and bonuses to the World Cup squad after the players boycott a meeting to try to resolve the impasse.

THU 3 FEB

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona is charged with inflicting bodily harm and minor injuries after the incident when journalists were hit by pellets fired from his home by an air gun earlier in the week. The charge, if proved, carries a sentence of one month to two years.

FRANCE: Marseille defender Jocelyn Angloma is suspended for four games after his double sending-off in successive weeks.

SPAIN: Real Madrid give coach Benito Floro a vote of confidence after the 3-0 home Cup defeat by Tenerife. A local paper telephone poll attracts a remarkable 26,000 calls about the Real Madrid crisis with 61 per cent demanding Floro's dismissal . . . Barcelona lose 1-0 at home and on aggregate in their Cup quarter-final against the reserves of Second Division Betis.

SWITZERLAND: International left-back Regis Rothenbuhler of Servette says he is quitting soccer at 23 because he has become a "football zombie."

FRI 4 FEB

ACTION: In a Kuala Lumpur tournament, Norway beat Japan 3-2.

ANGOLA: Former Portuguese League stalwart Carlos Alhinho is appointed national coach.

ARGENTINA: FIFA tell the Federation that Claudio Caniggia cannot train with the Argentinian World Cup squad until after his worldwide dope test ban has concluded on May 8.

SAT 5 FEB

ACTION: Real Madrid defeat Spanish league-leaders La Coruna 2-0 before 60,000 in the Estadio Bernabeu. Debutant Jose Luis Morales and midfielder Michel score the goals.

FRANCE: League president Noel Le Graet again demands the resignation of Bernard Tapie as Marseille president.

ITALY: Lazio loan Germany forward Thomas Doll back to Germany, to Eintracht Frankfurt.

SPAIN: Fernando Redondo's training scuffle is referred to the local judiciary in Tenerife.

SUN 6 FEB

ACTION: Saudi Arabia draw 1-1 with Colombia in Jeddah . . . in Italy, Inter sack coach Osvaldo Bagnoli, just as he had predicted, after losing 2-1 at home to Lazio . . . Benfica take a major step towards regaining the Portuguese league title when they beat FC Porto 2-0 in the Estadio da Luz . . . Barcelona complete a gloomy week of their own by losing 3-2 at home to Athletic Bilbao.

MON 7 FEB

ARGENTINA: More trouble for Diego Maradona. This time he and some friends are reported to have assaulted a photographer who takes pictures of his family at a restaurant after he had previously refused permission for a photograph.

PORTUGAL: FIFA general secretary and refereeing adviser Paolo Casarin tells a Lisbon symposium organised by the newspaper *A Bola* that World Cup officials will be instructed to crack down on the illegal tackle from behind and give advantage over offside doubt to attackers rather than defenders.

TUE 8 FEB

ENGLAND: FA commercial director Trevor Phillips warns that England could take matches away from Wembley if a dispute with the stadium management over commercial income cannot be resolved.

FRANCE: Marseille full-back Eric Di Meco makes a surprise return to the national squad for the friendly against Italy in Naples on February 16. Di Meco won the last of his six caps three years ago. Called up for the first time by new manager Aime Jacquet is Saint Etienne stopper Jean-Pierre Cyprien. Squad: Lama, Martini; Boli, Desailly, Cyprien, Lizarazu, Di Meco, Roche; Gnako, Deschamps, Le Guen, Guerin, Martins; Cantona, Ginola, Djorkaeff, Varihua.

HOLLAND: Feyenoord reject a Newcastle offer of £700,000 for World Cup defender Ulrich Van Gobbel.

ITALY: Sampdoria hit back with two second-half goals from Lombardo and Platt to beat holders Parma 2-1 in Genoa in a Cup semi-final, first leg.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Teddy Roe, a government relations adviser, says mistakes were made at the draw by allowing two Arab nations, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, to be drawn in the same group.

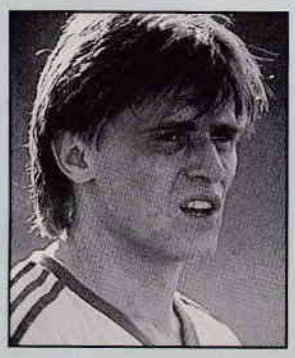
WED 9 FEB

ACTION: Colombia win 1-0 away to Saudi Arabia . . . Spain draw 1-1 in Tenerife with Poland.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona insists he will play in the World Cup finals despite all his problems and the fact that he has no club.

BELGIUM: Readers in a Belgian newspaper poll vote 67 per cent in favour of national coach Paul Van Himst picking Cercle Bruges forward ***Josip Weber (below),*** currently awaiting citizenship status, to be included in the World Cup squad.

BRAZIL: Pele's son, goalkeeper Edinho, is the star for Santos in only his



second Sao Paulo league match, a 0-0 draw away to Ponte Preta which Santos finish with 10 men after having Junior sent off.

FRANCE: Marseille, 5-1 winners against Toulouse thanks to two goals from ***Dragan Stojkovic (left),*** pick up a point on Paris Saint Germain as the leaders draw 0-0 away to Montpellier.

ITALY: Ancona of Serie B beat Torino 1-0 in a Cup semi-final, first leg.

SWITZERLAND: The SFV and the national team players reach agreement over World Cup bonus payments of £2,500 per point, £7,500 each for reaching the second round.

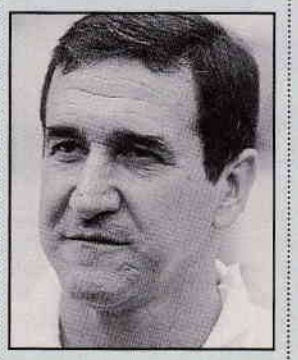
UKRAINE: Ukraine Federation president Viktor Bannikov says the Ukraine national team will be paid 50 per cent of all income if they qualify for the finals of the 1996 European Championship finals.

THU 10 FEB

ACTION: Denmark beat the United States 4-2 on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the Carlsberg Cup semi-final in Hong Kong. Fellow World Cup finalists Romania lose 5-4 on penalties after drawing 1-1 with a Hong Kong League XI.

BELGIUM: National coach Paul Van Himst names a squad lacking three injured key players — captain Georges Grun, midfielder Franky Van der Elst and striker Marc Degryse — for the World Cup warm-up against Malta. Squad: Preud'homme, De Wilde; Albert, Medved, Smidts, Emmers, Borkelmans; Boffin, Scifo, Staelens, Van Meir, Van der Heyden; Nilis, Czerniatynski, Wilmots, Oliveira.

BRAZIL: The tax office launch an inquiry into the real earnings of 39



top players after an inspector's son points out a table of earnings published in a sticker book . . . Rio de Janeiro police warn they will extend their investigation into the country's match-fixing soccer scandal and demand documentation revealing bank account details of implicated directors and referees . . . ***Carlos Alberto Parreira (above)*** says he has no intention of fielding a three-man attack at the World Cup finals as suggested by Romario.

JAPAN: The JFA offer Brazilian Paulo Falcao the post of national manager in succession to Hans Ooft, who will coach Jubilo Iwata in the new J.League season.

NORWAY: Arsenal defender Pal Lydersen returns on loan to his original club, IK Start, in the hope of gaining a World Cup place.

FRI 11 FEB

JAPAN: Brazilian Paulo Roberto Falcao is confirmed as new manager of Japan in succession to Hans Ooft.

SAT 12 FEB

ACTION: Slovenia win the Rothmans spring tournament in Malta, defeating their hosts 1-0 in the last match . . . Brugge beat Lierse 1-0 to pull level at the top in Belgium with Anderlecht . . . Bayern Munich's first league appearance under Franz Beckenbauer ends in a 3-1 defeat at home to VfB Stuttgart. Martin Dahlin pulls a thigh muscle, playing for Borussia Monchengladbach against Karlsruhe and is ruled out for a month.

SUN 13 FEB

ACTION: Denmark win the Carlsberg tournament in Hong Kong, beating the Hong Kong League XI 2-0 in the final. In the third place match, a World Cup preview, Romania beat the United States 2-1 . . . Beppe Signori scores a hat-trick as Lazio thrash Cagliari 4-0; Milan stay top with a 1-0 win over Cremonese . . . in Spain, Barcelona crash 6-3 to Real Zaragoza, their worst defeat in 32 years.

MON 14 FEB

ACTION: China beat Germany 2-0, and Thailand B defeat Japan 1-0 in the King's Cup in Bangkok.

FRANCE: Marseille defender Basile Boli is ruled out of France's game against Italy with an injury.

TUE 15 FEB

ACTION: Colombia draw 0-0 with Fiorentina in a training friendly in Italy . . . Russia beat South Korea 2-0 and Thailand A defeat Malaysia 4-1 in the continuing King's Cup in Bangkok.

ENGLAND: Leeds United decide to transfer-list Norway forward Frank Strandli.

PORTUGAL: Belenenses crash 2-0 to Second Division Lourosa in the quarter-finals of the Portuguese Cup. FC Porto reach the semi-finals with a 6-0 defeat of Desportivo Aves.

SPAIN: Valencia's Bulgarian forward Luboslav Penev may miss the World Cup finals after being struck down by a mystery illness.

WED 16 FEB

ACTION: Three World Cup finalists suffer warm-up set-backs as Italy lose 1-0 to France in Naples, Belgium go down 1-0 to Malta and South Korea lose 2-1 to fellow finalists Romania.

NORTHERN IRELAND: Bryan Hamilton is appointed new manager of Northern Ireland, winning the vote from favourite Jimmy Nicholl.

SPAIN: Tenerife, quarter-final conquerors of Real Madrid, crash 3-0 to Celta Vigo in their Spanish Cup semi-final first leg.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA confirm a worldwide suspension until February 1, 1995, on Egypt full-back Ibrahim Hassan as punishment for his attempted attack on the referee during Al-Ahly's 1-0 defeat by old rivals Zamalek in the African Supercup on January 16. Twin brother Hossam Hassan is currently under domestic suspension for throwing down his jersey after being sent off following a skirmish with an opponent in a league game.

THU 17 FEB

ACTION: Russia draw 0-0 with Velez Sarsfield in Buenos Aires . . . in the King's Cup in Bangkok, South Korea thrash Malaysia 5-1 while Thailand A draw 1-1 with Rotor of Russia.

SPAIN: Second Division Real Betis lose 1-0 at home to Zaragoza in a Spanish Cup semi-final, first leg tie . . . Valencia's Bulgarian forward Luboslav Penev begins a prospective five-month course of chemotherapy treatment in Barcelona for a malignant tumor discovered by tests carried out after he was hit in the groin by the ball.

UNITED STATES: MasterCard sues World Cup organisers and Sprint Communications in a row over sponsorship rights.

FRI 18 FEB

ACTION: Italy beat Japan 3-2 in a youth international friendly in Tokyo.

NIGERIA: The FA scrap plans for a tour of Argentina because, hours before scheduled departure, match details had not been confirmed.

PORTUGAL: Benfica say they will claim a £4million fee from Sporting for midfielder Paulo Sousa, whom Sporting signed last summer.

OBITUARY

JOHNNY HANCOCKS, one of the smallest men ever to play for England, has died at 83. He stood only 5ft 4in and took size four boots, but had a tremendous shot and scored over 100 goals during a decade with Wolves. Hancocks won both League and Cup medals — playing in the 1949 Wembley final on his 30th birthday — and scored twice against Switzerland on his England debut, but gained only two more caps.

SAT 19 FEB

ACTION: Bayern Munich win 3-1 at Leipzig, their first victory under Franz Beckenbauer to sit in joint second place behind surprise new leaders Dusiburg in Germany . . . Real Madrid beat Atletico 1-0 in the capital derby with new boy Morales again scoring the decisive goal. Barcelona recover from their slump by thrashing Osasuna 8-1 with a Romario hat-trick.

COLOMBIA: Carlos Valderrama is flown home from Miami for knee surgery after being injured in the Robbie Cup tie against Sweden. It is thought he will be out for four weeks, far less than had been feared initially.

SAUDI ARABIA: The Saudi federation dismisses Dutchman Leo Beenhakker as World Cup coach after just three months in the job. Player unrest over much tougher training schedules is the suspected cause.

SUN 20 FEB

ACTION: The Robbie Cup ends with Colombia beating Bolivia 2-0 and Sweden defeating the United States 3-1. Sweden thus win the tournament on goals scored . . . Japan beat Italy 3-1 in a youth international in Urawa . . . Marseille miss a chance to narrow the gap on leaders Paris Saint-Germain as they lose 1-0 to old rivals Bordeaux . . . Milan extend their lead in Italy by defeating Lazio 1-0 in Rome with a goal from Massaro.

BELGIUM: Interior Minister Louis Tabback says his Ministry may refuse to provide US immigration authorities with the names of suspected hooligans for fear of breaching human rights norms.

MON 21 FEB

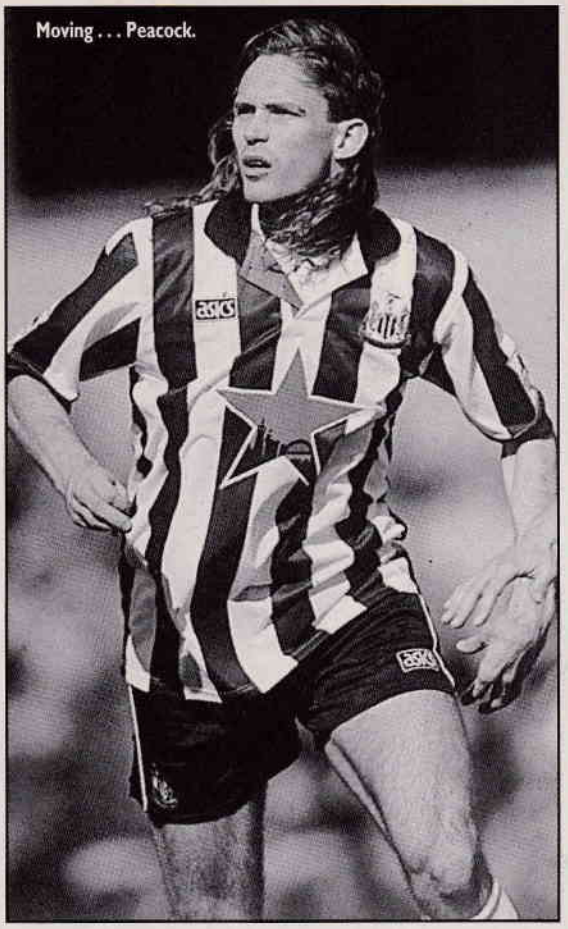
ACTION: Thailand B beat Germany's Westfalia Herne 4-0 in Bangkok to win the 25th King's Cup. Rotor of Russia finish third thanks to a 5-3 penalties victory against Thailand A.

FRANCE: Marseille and Monaco, the club who replaced them in the Champions Cup, are drawn to meet.

FAROE ISLANDS: Allan Simonsen, former Denmark forward, is appointed new coach of the Faroes' national team in succession to Pall Gudlaugsson.

EGYPT: FA officials decided not to appeal to FIFA against a one-year international ban imposed on Ibrahim Hassan.

HOLLAND: The KNVB say that, although Holland's ticket allocation for the World Cup finals is 14,000, they have already received requests for 55,000 tickets.



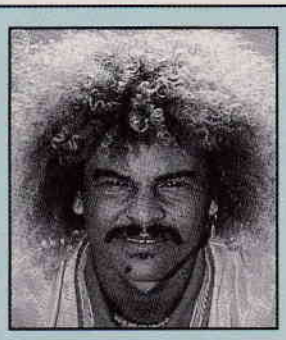
Moving . . . Peacock.

global TRANSFERS

(Loan moves in italics)

Clive **ALLEN**	F	West Ham	Millwall
Peter **BEAGRIE**	F	Everton	Manchester City
*Jeroen **BOERE***	*F*	*West Ham*	*Portsmouth*
Jose **DOMINGUES**	M	Benfica	Birmingham City
Bruce **DYER**	F	Watford	Crystal Palace
*Stefan **KARL***	*M*	*Borussia Dortmund*	*Manchester City*
Anders **LIMPAR**	F	Arsenal	Everton
*Bruce **MURRAY***	*F*	*Millwall*	*Stockport County*
Michel **PAGEAU**	G	Valenciennes	Dundee
Darren **PEACOCK**	D	QPR	Newcastle United
Lee **POWER**	F	Norwich City	Bradford City
*Uwe **ROSLER***	*F*	*Dynamo Dresden*	*Manchester City*
Paul **WALSH**	F	Portsmouth	Manchester City
*Guy **WHITTINGHAM***	*F*	*Aston Villa*	*Wolves*

TUE 22 FEB



COLOMBIA: Cárlos Valderrama ***(right)*** undergoes successful surgery on his damaged right knee and says he expects to be back in action within six weeks.

ENGLAND: Eric Cantona's younger brother, Joel, starts a one-week trial with First Division Peterborough. He has previously played for Marseille, Rennes and Angers as well as Belgian club Antwerp and Hungary's Ujpest Dosza.

PORTUGAL: Brazilian Nelson Bertollazi's transfer plea is rejected by Boavista. President Valentim Loureiro says: "He's a great player but just because he hasn't been picked for the team doesn't mean he should leave."

SPAIN: Johan Cruyff is shown the red card for dissent and Andoni Zubizarreta the red card for handling outside his penalty area as Barcelona win 3-1 away to Valladolid.

WED 23 FEB

ACTION: Turkey lose 4-1 at home to the Czech Republic in Istanbul . . . Saudi Arabia lose 1-0 in Riyadh to Racing Mechelen . . . Israel beat Georgia 2-0 in Tel-Aviv.

BELGIUM: Cercle's Croat-born striker Josip Weber completes all stages of his citizenship application and is now formally available to play for Belgium.

HOLLAND: Ajax's Finland forward, Jari Litmanen, is voted Footballer of the Year in Holland.

ITALY: Sampdoria reach the Cup final, beating Parma 1-0 (3-1 on aggregate) in their semi-final second leg . . . speculation gathers pace about Ruud Gullit's possible return from Sampdoria to Milan at the end of the season . . . Napoli's players say that if, within 20 days, the club have not paid them two months' pay outstanding, they will ask the League to grant them all free transfers.

UNITED STATES: The World Cup talk-in with national managers discusses the prospects of referees at the finals being kitted out in gold, silver or pink; squads will contain 22 players with all reserves available on the bench and a goalkeeper can be substituted in case of injury if the two permitted outfield subs have been utilised.

THU 24 FEB

ACTION: Morocco draw 0-0 in Casablanca with Finland.

GERMANY: Holger Fach quits as skipper of Borussia Monchengladbach after his "leadership qualities" were criticised in a newspaper interview by the club president.

HOLLAND: The KNVB discuss employing Leo Beenhakker and Wim Jansen, just dismissed by Saudi Arabia, as World Cup "spies."

ITALY: Ruud Gullit says he and Holland manager Dick Advocaat have patched up their differences and he will be playing, after all, at the World Cup finals . . . Second Division Ancona reach the Cup final, hanging on 0-0 at home to holders Torino and qualifying 1-0 on aggregate . . . Juventus' Andy Moller is suspended for three matches and fined after his weekend expulsion for having called derby referee Nicchi a "mafioso."

FRI 25 FEB

BRAZIL: At Pele's request, a judidicial inquiry is ordered into his row with Ricardo Teixeira, president of the CBF.

FRANCE: Marseille president Bernard Tapie is questioned for four hours by investigating judge Beffy over the Valenciennes match scandal.

SWITZERLAND: Egypt defender Hany Ramzy is sentenced, in his absence, to 40 days in jail by a court in Neuchatel for "serious violations of traffic laws."

SAT 26 FEB

ACTION: Bayern Munich thrash leaders Duisburg 4-0 in Germany . . . Barcelona beat Spanish League leaders La Coruna 3-0 with goals from Stoichkov, Romario and substitute Laudrup.

SUN 27 FEB

ACTION: Milan goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi extends his unbeaten record to 929 minutes before he is beaten by a goal from Igor Kolivanov in Milan's 2-1 win over Foggia . . . Aston Villa beat Tranmere in a penalty shoot-out in the League Cup semi-final second leg.

SPAIN: Jose Luis Romero hands Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil his resignation as coach before the match against Real Sociedad in San Sebastian.

MON 28 FEB

SAUDI ARABIA: Visiting Vitesse Arnhem of Holland beat Saudi Arabia 4-3 in Jeddah.

DENMARK: Manager Richard Moller Nielsen names three uncapped players in his 16-man squad for the friendly against England at Wembley. The uncapped trio are Silkeborg's Soren Frederiksen, the Danish League's top scorer with 11 goals, Brondby midfielder Jesper Kristensen and OB defender Carsten Detlefsen.

TUE 1 MAR

ACTION: Benfica scramble a 1-1 draw at home to Leverkusen in the Cup-winners Cup . . . Juventus lose 1-0 away to fellow Italian club Cagliari in the UEFA Cup but Inter, out of sorts in the League, surprisingly win 3-1 away to Borussia Dortmund with two goals from Wim Jonk.

LEBANON: Seven fans are injured after fighting in Beirut's Bourj Hammoud stadium at the end of League leaders Al-Ansar's 2-1 defeat of challengers Nejmeh. Troops and riot police fire shots in the air to disperse the hooligans.

ITALY: Players from debt-ridden Napoli begin formal moves to secure three months' unpaid salary or be granted free transfers. Captain Ciro Ferrara says all but

five players supported the request to the Italian League. He says: "We've taken this step to protect our interests but we are ready to withdraw it if the situation can be resolved."

PORTUGAL: Benfica say their fund-raising drive has lifted membership to 122,000 from the previous 82,000. Next biggest in Portugal are Sporting, with 75,000 members.

UNITED STATES: A Harris opinion poll claims that only 25 per cent of Americans know the World Cup is about soccer, that only 20 per cent of Americans know the finals be played in the US, that only 18 per cent know the finals are this year and that 62 per cent are not interested in attending matches . . . franchises in Houston, Seattle and Toronto lift to eight the number of teams in the APSL's 1994 season which starts on July 1.

TEAM OF THE MONTH

AUSTRIA SALZBURG . . .

for continuing their surprise progress in the UEFA Cup.

WED 2 MAR

ACTION: Monaco beat Galatasaray 3-0 to overtake Barcelona at the top of the Champions League Group A; Barcelona concede a 2-0 lead in Moscow where Spartak fight back to draw with two goals in the last 13 minutes. In Group B, Milan stay top by defeating Werder Bremen 2-1 and Bobby Robson's European debut with FC Porto ends in a 1-0 defeat when Luc Nilis grabs an 88th-minute goal for Anderlecht in Brussels . . . Mexico and Colombia draw 0-0 in Mexico City.

HOLLAND: UEFA's executive, meeting in Holland, offers the first official confirmation of the FIFA power struggle by issuing a statement suggesting it may put forward its own candidate for FIFA president. The statement categorically denies a claim by Joao Havelange in New York that he had been guaranteed the re-election support of UEFA president Lennart Johansson.

ITALY: Cagliari offer the No. 9 shirt of goal-scorer Julio Dely Valdes in exchange for the return of the UEFA flag stolen from their Sant'Elia stadium during celebrations after their 1-0 UEFA Cup win over Juventus . . . Napoli players, at the request of fans, delay until next Monday their action to enforce payment of their unpaid salaries or guaranteed free transfers.

SWITZERLAND: Struggling Neuchatel Xamax threaten their own disciplinary action after Bulgaria defender Trifon Ivanov is banned for four matches by the League disciplinary committee after being sent off for spitting at the referee in his second appearance for the club last Sunday.

UNITED STATES: World Cup organisers say some more tickets, returned by sponsors, will be available for sale to the general public.

THU 3 MAR

ARGENTINA: World Cup goalkeeper **Sergio Goycochea (right)** is dropped by River Plate after giving away the equaliser in the 2-2 draw against Platense.

BELGIUM: Specialist Marc Martens, after a new check on Marco Van Basten's damaged ankle, confirms the Milan striker's worst fears when he says Van Basten will not be fit in time to play in the World Cup finals.

BRAZIL: Pele maintains the pressure on FIFA president Joao Havelange when he tells the *Estado de Sao Paulo* newspaper: "He's been going to the doctor a lot recently. If he were somebody else, I would say he was going senile."

LEBANON: The Federation bans all fans from attending the last two rounds of League matches after hooligan trouble at the Ansar v Nijmeh top-of-the-table clash.

SPAIN: Real Madrid's Estadio Bernabeu is shut for one match by the sporting disciplinary committee because a linesman was struck on the back by an apple after Madrid's 3-0 home defeat by Tenerife in the Spanish Cup quarter-final second leg.

ITALY: The Italian Federation offers to give crisis clubs Napoli and Torino advances on next season's TV income to help them stave off bankruptcy proceedings.

FRI 4 MAR

ARGENTINA: River Plate edge one point clear of Racing thanks to a 5-3 defeat of Deportivo Mandiyu.

SAT 5 MAR

ACTION: English leaders Manchester United lose at home for the first time in 16 months, by 1-0 to Chelsea; Norway's Jan Fjortoft scored his ninth goal in seven games as Swindon draw 1-1 with West Ham . . . Anderson scores twice as Marseille beat Lille 3-2 . . . Bayern Munich stay top in Germany after defeating champions Werder Bremen 2-0 . . . Portuguese leaders Benfica are held 1-1 away to Maritimo . . . Aberdeen's Dutch goalkeeper, **Theo Snelders *(below)***, suffers a knee injury in a home defeat by Hearts.

GERMANY: Third Division SpVgg Unterhaching say they will sue the DFB for failing to carry through its doping procedures concerning Thomas Moller, formerly of Eintracht Braunschweig. Unterhaching claim they should be awarded the points from their defeat last season by Braunschweig — a result which would have saved them from relegation and all subsequent costs.

PORTUGAL: Yet another car crash with Sporting Lisbon's reserve midfielder Hugo Porfirio suffering facial cuts after his car is in collision with a bus on the way to a training session.

WHAT'S ON

APRIL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

Internationals: Austria v Scotland (Vienna), Denmark v Hungary, Holland v Republic of Ireland (Utrecht), Wales v Sweden (Cardiff), Norway v Portugal, Romania v Bolivia (Bucharest), Tunisia v Saudi Arabia (Tunis), Turkey v Russia.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

Champions Cup — semi-finals. UEFA Cup — Final, 1st leg. International: Greece v Saudi Arabia.

MAY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

Cup-winners Cup — Final (Stockholm). **Internationals:** Sweden v Nigeria (Stockholm), Bolivia v Saudi Arabia (Nice).

SATURDAY, MAY 7

International: Nigeria v Norway or Finland.

SUNDAY, MAY 8

International: Trinidad & Tobago v Saudi Arabia.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

UEFA Cup — Final, 2nd leg. Internationals: Bolivia v Switzerland (Montreal), Colombia v Parma (Cali), Greece v Cameroon (Athens), Italy v Costa Rica.

THURSDAY, MAY 12

International: Sweden v Romania (Vancouver).

FRIDAY, MAY 13

International: Cameroon v Bolivia (Athens).

SUNDAY, MAY 15

International: Greece v Bolivia (Athens).

TUESDAY, MAY 17

Internationals: England v Greece (Wembley), Poland v Austria.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

Champions Cup — Final (Athens).

FRIDAY, MAY 20

International: Republic of Ireland v France (Dublin).

SUN 6 MAR

ACTION: Anderlecht hold on for a 0-0 draw away to pursuers Club Brugge . . . French League leaders Paris Saint-Germain, tired by their midweek efforts in Madrid, are held 2-2 at home by struggling Martigues . . . Eintracht Frankfurt show signs of revival at last, winning 3-1 away to Freiburg thanks to two goals from Tony Yeboah . . . Ajax hit back from 2-0 down at home at half-time to beat Cambuur 3-2 . . . Milan stay six points clear by winning 1-0 away to Juventus in Italy; the Parma v Reggiana match is abandoned at halfway after referee Pierluigi Parietti pulls a muscle . . . Moscow Spartak open the Russian season with a 2-1 win away to Dynamo Stavropol . . . Spanish leaders La Coruna are held 1-1 at home by Zaragoza, allowing Barcelona (3-1 winners away to Oviedo) to move to within three points.

MON 7 MAR

BELGIUM: Specialists tell Belgium and Anderlecht defender Philippe Albert that he will miss the rest of the season, and probably the World Cup finals, after tearing knee ligaments in Sunday's match of the season against Club Brugge.

ENGLAND: Sampdoria midfielder David Platt is appointed captain of England for the match against Denmark by new coach Terry Venables.

ITALY: All but five Napoli players go ahead, after all, with a formal petition to the Federation demanding either that their salaries, overdue for three months, should be paid or that they should be granted free transfers.

PORTUGAL: Portugal's under-21 squad sets off for Poland without Abel Xavier, Joao Vieira Pinto and Rui Costa of Benfica, who have been stranded by high winds on the island of Madeira since Saturday's 1-1 draw against local club Maritimo.

SPAIN: Real Madrid dismiss coach Benito Floro and appoint former Spain midfielder Vicente Del Bosque as caretaker to the end of the season. Floro's dismissal follows the double defeats by Paris Saint Germain in the Cup-winners Cup and by Lleida in the Spanish League inside four days.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA summon Torino officials to a disciplinary hearing on March 18 into allegations that the Italian club provided prostitutes for match referees at European Cup matches.

UNITED STATES: National squad forward Joe-Max Moore is ruled out for six weeks with a stress fracture in his left foot after being injured in training. Team spokesman Dean Linke says he should be fit for the World Cup finals.

INSIDE OUT

COMPILED BY JOHN KELLY

BLAZE OF GLORY

BLAZE DAKOTA sounds like a fire in those Black Hills made famous by Doris Day. In fact, she's the new executive director of the US Women's Soccer Federation. And she seems to have all the qualifications needed.

She coaches at a soccer club in Durango, teachers creative writing, and does PR for the Earth Living Foundation.

Perhaps Blaze and the new WSF vice-president, Kenya Williams (male) will set the soccer world on fire.

TELL-ING IT LIKE IT IS

THEY know how to wound, these Americans. Scott LeTellier, managing director of World Cup US '94, was asked what factors would determine the size of profits from the competition, and replied that the cost of security was an unknown factor.

"We were fortunate in not having England, Iran or Iraq or North Korea qualify," he said.

BANGLA BUNGLERS

UNRULY students damaged several cars and caused traffic jams while protesting against plans to hold examinations during the World Cup. They want the date moved from the traditional time, late June, so that they can watch the games on television.

And where did this unfortunate example of extreme devotion to soccer take place? Bangladesh, of course.

COLD COMFORT

FURTHER to our item about the name of a Ukranian club, Metallist Kharkov, appearing on a wall in Hawera, New Zealand, there is news of a Maccabi Haifa scarf being worn by an Israeli at a research base in Antarctica.

Thanks to Tal Wischenka, a reader in Kfar-Saba, Israel, for the information. Any more strange sightings?

DAVID PROLE discovers that an old FA Cup 'record' is incomplete

THREE MORE FOR THAT NINE-MAN LIST

Archie HUNTER

Harry HAMPTON

Harold BLACKMORE

EVERY YEAR, around FA Cup Final time, the old chestnut appears. Every year, the record-books are updated, and in it goes again. And it's wrong!

According to annuals and almanacks, nine players have scored in every round of the FA Cup in one season, from the start of their club's campaign up to and including the final.

Not so. There have been 12.

Like everybody else, I assumed that nine was right, from Sandy Brown's amazing 15 goals for Spurs in 1901 — the first of only two seasons he had at the club — to Peter Osgood's flying header in the 1970 replay at Old Trafford.

Then, while idly trawling through Mike Collett's recent *Guinness Record of the FA Cup*, I saw that Harold Blackmore was credited with scoring in every round for Bolton in 1929.

He played in all eight of the club's matches that year, failed to score in two, but still managed two goals in one round and one in all the other five, including Wembley. And five of the opposing clubs were in the First Division, as well.

That set me off in a determined hunt to see if there were any others. Sure enough, two more came to light — with the same club.

Accepting that some records of the early days are incomplete, Archie Hunter was the first to achieve the "goal-every-round" distinction, in Aston Villa's remarkable 1886-1887 season.

Their Cup hunt lasted from October to March, involving them in two preliminary rounds, and 10 games in all. Hunter scored in seven of them, for a total of 11 goals out of 40.

In contrast, Villa's Harry Hampton had a much easier time 18 years later. There were only five rounds that season, and Hampton collected seven goals from six matches, missing the first semi-final but scoring once in the replay.

A few hours at the British Museum's Newspaper Library duly bore out Mr Collett's figures: there are 12 record-sharers, not nine. Definitely.

Presumably the original list was compiled, long ago, by somebody who did not do anything like the amount of research undertaken by Mr Collett for his invaluable book, which lists all the available results and scorers of EVERY FA Cup competition since 1871 . . . but claims on page 593 that NINE men share this particular record, not 12 as the author unwittingly proves!

Hopefully, Mr Collett's mammoth production will go to a reprint, with the error amended. Hopefully, other reference books will get it right from now on.

Hunter, Hampton and Blackmore should have their notable performances recorded. They played a long time ago, but they deserve recognition for what they did. And in Blackmore's case, that recognition will be particularly apt . . . his widow is still alive, living in Exeter, and a copy of *WORLD SOCCER* is on its way to her.

Key: A = total FA Cup games played by the club. **B** = number of games in which the player scored. **C** = his total goals. **D** = club's total goals.

Year	Player	Club	A	B	C	D	Result
1887	Archie Hunter	Aston Villa	10	7	11	40	Won
1901	Sandy Brown	Tottenham	8	7	15	20	Won
1905	Harry Hampton	Aston Villa	6	5	7	18	Won
1929	Harold Blackmore	Bolton	8	6	7	17	Won
1935	Ellis Rimmer	Sheff Wed	6	6	8	15	Won
1937	Frank O'Donnell	Preston	6	6	11	20	Lost
1948	Stan Mortensen	Blackpool	6	6	10	20	Lost
1951	Jackie Milburn	Newcastle	8	6	8	18	Won
1953	Nat Lofthouse	Bolton	8	7	8	16	Lost
1954	Charlie Wayman	Preston	8	6	7	20	Lost
1968	Jeff Astle	West Brom	10	7	9	17	Won
1970	Peter Osgood	Chelsea	8	6	8	25	Won

● *The minimum number of games a club had to play in order to win the FA Cup varied in the early days. Between 1889 and 1905 a club could win the trophy by playing only five matches: the extra round was instituted in 1906.*

VIDEO NASTIES

ARE WE alone in thinking that there are too many videos available these days? And are the makers selective enough?

We ask because the PolyGram company have launched a Golden Goals series, one video per Premiership club, claiming to have AT LEAST 120 goals in each one. Rather an excessive number of commentators screeching GOOOOOOOOAL, we think. There's more to the game than sending the leather hurtling into the rigging, as the old-time scribes used to write.

PolyGram also would do well to look more closely at their publicity material.

The announcement of this mind-numbing venture consists of seven paragraphs and uses such words as clubs' instead of club's, truimphs instead of triumphs, collecter instead of collector, and sourvenir instead of souvenir, as well as referring to somebody called Gary Linekar.

We all make mistakes, of course, but hopefully we'll never get down to this level.

THE PASSING GAME

THE arrival and departure of National Continence Week had passed us by until we noticed that several Southampton players had been asked to donate urine samples to medical science.

Medics wanted to compare the specimens with those taken from hospital patients. "We took our urine flow meter to the training ground and each player gave a sample," said a spokeswoman, Collette Hemstritch (not hem stitch!) Johnston.

Not so much the WM formation as the WC formation.

BEHIND BARS, NOT BENEATH

FORMER goalkeeper Petar Borota has been held in custody on remand and faces up to three years in prison, after being accused of theft.

Borota played for OFK and Partizan in his native Belgrade, then spent three seasons with Chelsea in the 1980s. He later played for FC Porto in Portugal and had a brief spell in South Africa before returning to Yugoslavia.

He ran two shops, both in leading Belgrade hotels, dealt in antiques and earned a reputation as an artist, whose works were usually well reviewed by critics.

Now, however, he and a business associate are in prison in Novi Sad, awaiting trial accused of stealing icons and paintings.

More grief for Gazza

JOHN BROWETT is the man who has the job of rescuing Paul Gascoigne's career after the latest accident to befall English soccer's most controversial character.

Gascoigne (right) broke both bones in his right shin when making a tackle — described as "injudicious at best" — during training with Lazio.

He was flown back to England for treatment from Mr Browett, the surgeon who rebuilt the torn cruciate ligament that could have ended his career in 1991.

Now another touch of the irresponsibility that has marred his career has cast further doubts on his future. Gascoigne, for all his faults, is a fighter. He punished himself severely on the long fight back to fitness after the Wembley incident, and continually battles against his weight.

He may well surprise us all with the speed of his recovery from the latest blow, but a long lay-off seems assured. And he will be 27 this month, with not a great deal of time left for him to continue playing a major role in England's plans.

The news of Gascoigne's injury came a few days after the FA withdrew from the friendly with Germany in Berlin, scheduled for April 20 — the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birthday.

The withdrawal was an embarrassment for the FA, but undoubtedly the correct decision. With the threat of neo-Nazi violence hanging over the match, the FA could ill afford ugly scenes as preparations begin for their "own" European Championship in 1996.

On the domestic scene, Manchester United's seemingly unstoppable drive to an unprecedented treble has run into severe problems.

Their treble hopes ended with a 3-1 defeat by Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup Final at Wembley.

United were no match for Ron Atkinson's well-organised side, and goals by Dalian Atkinson and Dean Saunders (two) secured Villa's first trophy since 1982, despite a late goal by Mark Hughes. To add to United's problems, they also had Andrei Kanchelskis sent off for handling, their fifth dismissal of the season.

Then came a 2-0 defeat at title rivals Blackburn in the FA Premiership. Two goals by Alan Shearer earned all three points and reduced United's lead at the top to three with six games left.

Blackburn would have gone level on oints were in not for a disastrous midweek defeat at Wimbledon, where the Dons powered their way to a 4-1 win.

United's two weeks of misery was almost capped with defeat in the FA Cup semi-final at Wembley. Struggling Oldham held the champions for 90 minutes and then took the lead, through defender Neil Pointon, after 16 minutes of extra time had passed. A goal by Mark Hughes 40 seconds from time saved United, and possibly their whole season. Manager Alex Ferguson certainly thought so, describing Hughes as "a miracle man".

In the other semi-final, also played at Wembley, Chelsea made light work of beating Luton. Gavin Peacock scored both goals to take Glenn Hoddle's team to their first Cup final since 1970.

At the bottom of the FA Premiership the relegation dog-fight is hotting up. Swindon look doomed, but the other two to go are far from clear. Current form suggests Ipswich, Everton and Tottenham are in most danger. Sheffield United could yet pull off another escape, and Southampton did their chances no harm with an amazing 5-4 victory at Norwich.

The final weeks of the season will provide nervous times for at least 10 clubs, who could all still go down.

JOHN KELLY

Glenavon pair among the goals

THE four semi-finalists in this season's Irish Cup are League contenders Glenavon, Portadown and Linfield and last season's winners, Bangor.

The County Armagh teams, Glenavon and Portadown, had fairly comfortable away victories over Distillery (4-2) and Omagh Town (2-1) respectively.

Two goals by Glenavon's Glenn Ferguson brought his total this season to 27, while striking partner Stephen McBride hit the other two and now has an even better total — 35.

Portadown, with Paul Doolin back after a spell with Dublin's Shelbourne and the excellent Martin Russell also in midfield, earned a semi-final against Bangor, who defeated Glentoran 2-0 at the Oval.

After a dull-as-ditchwater 0-0 draw at Windsor Park in the first match between Linfield and Cliftonville, there was trouble at the replay, also at Windsor Park.

Kieran Loughran of Cliftonville scuffled with Des Gorman of Linfield near the end of normal time, and both were sent off. In extra time, Gary Peebles scored the winner for Linfield, and another Cliftonville player, Joe Kerr, was dismissed. Linfield play Glenavon in the semi-finals.

● *ONE for the record books: in a recent League match three sets of brothers played on opposing sides. Dean Doherty, Eddie Spiers and Reg Dornan played for Bangor, and Lee Doherty, Jeff Spiers and Alan Dornan played for Linfield, who won 1-0.*

ROY KITSON

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP

Brescia's Cup

A GOAL by Gabriele Ambrosetti (pictured left, with the trophy) gave Brescia an Anglo-Italian Cup victory in the final against Notts County at Wembley, and had him saying: "I'm delighted to score in the temple of football.

"All I had to do was put loan Sabau's pass in the net, although it came to me on my wrong foot."

Both teams went into the match having won three of their four qualifying games and scoring nine goals, yet having lost one of the two-leg semi-finals. County got through by beating Southend on penalties, and Brescia beat Pescara on away goals.

The game was never over-physical, although there were cautions for three players on each side. Domini deserved his for artistic impression after being felled.

Brescia's Romanian coach, Mircea Lucescu, said: "We deserved to win, not only for today but for the way we played throughout the event."

County's Mick Walker disagreed, saying that his team lost because of missed chances. "It's like a game of chess when English clubs play Italians," he added.

Walker admitted that his team's attacking ideas were based mainly on corners and on Legg's enormous throws. "I'm not a great believer in that style, but it was worth trying," he added.

Most of the crowd, a modest 17,185, may not agree.

PAUL HISCOCK

Smith back in the firing line

JOHN TOSHACK'S brief reign as national team manager is still being debated in Wales.

His surprise decision to vacate the job after only one match in charge caused much derision, mostly directed at FAW chief executive Alun Evans.

He was blamed by many, and has to bear the brunt of a resurrected media campaign — most of it unjustified. FAW decisions are made by the FAW Council and it was they, based on Toshack's belief that he could do both jobs, who had the final say.

Toshack knew of the acrimony regarding Terry Yorath's departure when he took the job but he used this to justify his resignation.

Some believe the calls for Yorath's return during Wales's defeat by Norway did the damage; there cannot be many managers who have experienced rejection by fans after only 50 minutes!

So now Mike Smith (above right) takes the helm for his second stint in charge. His earlier term in office was the most successful of any Welsh team manager, but culminated in the team's exit from the European Championship at the quarter-final stage in 1976.

Smith's job is difficult, to say the least. There are vultures waiting.

In the national Konica League, a run of six matches unbeaten pushed Bangor City firmly into the championship race. They now lead

Little to cheer at the new Hampden Park

THE refurbished, all-seat Hampden Park was "christened" with a friendly international between Scotland and Holland but, sadly for the capacity crowd, the home side did not do justice to the impressive surroundings.

An under-strength Dutch side recorded a reasonably easy 1-0 victory without every appearing to move into top gear.

A marvellous first-half goal from Bryan Roy separated the teams on a miserable, wet evening, but there was nothing to excite the Scottish fans. They had been given little cause for optimism in the future.

The recently-appointed national coach, Craig Brown, tried hard to extract positive factors from the uninspiring performance but, apart from reasonably sound displays by goalkeeper Andy Goram and central defender Colin Hendry, there were few indications that Scotland are ready to make any kind of positive impact on world football.

Brown acknowledged this by saying that, in terms of technical ability, the Scots lag behind at least three African nations, a situation which would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

He is determined to change things from grass roots upwards and has implemented a structured technical development programme within the SFA, designed to stimulate interest in the game and to promote excellence in all areas.

On the domestic front, Rangers continue to roll merrily on, despite a tenacious challenge from an unlikely source — Motherwell.

Under former Rangers and Scotland winger Tommy McLean, Motherwell are having an exceptional season, and have managed to cling on to the champions for almost the entire term.

Celtic have at last sorted out their boardroom problems, with Scots-Canadian businessman Fergus McCann finally realising his desire to obtain a controlling interest in the club.

McCann has pledged a massive cash injection to help manager Lou Macari strengthen his playing resources, as he certainly needs to do.

After years living in the shadow of Rangers, and an unacceptable run of five trophy-less seasons, the Celtic supporters are desperately hoping that he can lead the team out of the current wilderness.

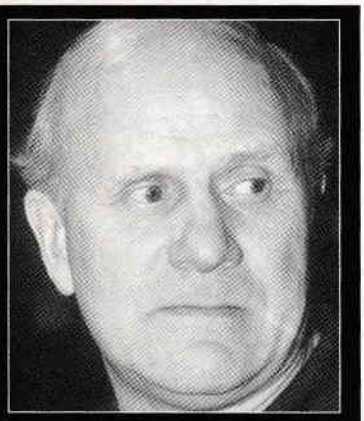
ALAN FAIRLEY

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	36	23	10	3	72	36	79
Blackburn	36	23	7	6	57	29	76
Newcastle	36	19	8	9	69	34	65
Arsenal	36	16	15	5	48	21	63
Leeds	36	15	14	7	52	34	59
Sheff Wed	36	14	12	10	64	49	54
Liverpool	37	15	9	13	55	49	54
Wimbledon	36	14	10	12	43	46	52
Aston Villa	36	13	12	11	39	36	51
QPR	34	14	8	12	53	50	50
Norwich	37	11	15	11	58	53	48
Coventry	36	11	11	14	37	42	44
West Ham	35	11	11	13	38	49	44
Chelsea	35	11	9	15	39	44	42
Ipswich	37	9	14	14	33	49	41
Tottenham	36	9	12	15	47	52	39
Man City	37	8	15	14	32	42	39
Everton	37	10	7	20	37	56	37
Oldham	35	9	10	16	37	56	37
Sheff Utd	37	6	17	14	35	54	35
Southampton	36	9	6	21	34	52	33
Swindon	37	4	14	19	41	87	26

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	36	20	11	5	66	35	51
Motherwell	37	17	12	8	49	36	46
Aberdeen	36	14	16	6	49	32	44
Hibernian	37	15	12	10	51	38	42
Celtic	36	14	14	8	42	29	42
Dundee United	36	9	18	9	38	37	36
Hearts	36	9	15	12	29	36	33
Partick	36	10	13	13	40	49	33
Kilmarnock	37	9	14	14	30	42	32
St Johnstone	36	7	16	13	29	43	30
Raith	37	5	15	17	37	66	25
Dundee	36	6	10	20	34	51	22



by a point from Inter Cardiff, who looked like running away with the title but are now in poor form. Only four points came from their last five games.Third-placed Ton Pentre beat Inter 1-0, but have suffered a few setbacks of late, not least the 3-1 defeat by Afan Lido and a 3-0 loss at Llanelli.

Afan Lido are making a spirited fight against relegation, under new manager Phil Robinson, and have seriously affected the championship race. A 2-0 win at Inter took the rejuvenated side to five matches unbeaten.

The Welsh Cup reached its penultimate stage with Bangor City and Barry Town contesting one semi-final while professionals Cardiff City and Swansea meet in the other.

Bangor are in line for the treble; Championship, League Cup — a 6-1 aggregate win over Caersws earned a final berth — and Welsh Cup.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

MIDWEEK

SOUTHAMPTON 4 (Le Tissier 1, 43 pen, 50 pen, Maskell 6)
LIVERPOOL 2 (Dicks 68 pen, Rush 86). **Att:** 18,306.

COCA-COLA CUP — SEMI-FINALS, 1ST LEG

MAN UNITED 1 (Giggs 19)
SHEFFIELD WED 0. **Att:** 43,000.

TRANMERE 3 (Nolan 5, Hughes 23, Aldridge 78)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Atkinson 90). **Att:** 17,140.

WEEKEND

BLACKBURN 1 (May 76)
NEWCASTLE 0. **Att:** 21,269.

EVERTON 1 (Cottee 81)
ARSENAL 1 (Merson 56). **Att:** 19,891.

LEEDS UTD 2 (Wetherall 10, McAllister 87).
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 40,053.

SWINDON 3 (Taylor 18, Fjortoft 45, 50)
NORWICH 3 (Sutton 10, Newman 41, Goss 83). **Att:** 15,405.

COVENTRY 4 (Rennie 52, Quinn 75, Williams 87, Ndlovu 90)
MAN CITY 0. **Att:** 11,735.

FA CUP — 5TH ROUND

CARDIFF CITY 1 (Stant 65)
LUTON 2 (Oakes 39, Preece 70). **Att:** 17,296.

OLDHAM 1 (Ritchie 61)
BARNSLEY 0. **Att:** 15,685.

KIDDERMINSTER 0
WEST HAM 1 (Chapman 69). **Att:** 8,000.

WOLVES 1 (Kelly 81)
IPSWICH 1 (Wark 28). **Att:** 28,234.

BOLTON 1 (Stubbs 82)
ASTON VILLA 0. **Att:** 18,817.

OXFORD UTD 1 (Beauchamp 5)
CHELSEA 2 (Spencer 22, Burley 30). **Att:** 10,787.

WIMBLEDON 0
MAN UNITED 3 (Cantona 43, Ince 63, Irwin 71). **Att:** 27,511.

BRISTOL CITY 1 (Tinnion 12)
CHARLTON 1 (Robson 59). **Att:** 20,416.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MIDWEEK

NORWICH 2 (Sutton 40 pen, 57)
BLACKBURN 2 (Gallacher 32, 58). **Att:** 15,193.

NEWCASTLE 4 (Cole 49, 70, 77, Mathie 86)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 32,216.

ASTON VILLA 0
MANCHESTER CITY 0. **Att:** 19,254.

IPSWICH 3 (Linighan 2, Marshall 8 , Slater 36)
SHEFFIELD UTD 2 (Cork 23, Carr 49). **Att:** 10,747.

COCA-COLA CUP — SEMI-FINAL, 2ND LEG

ASTON VILLA 3 (Saunders 19, Teale 23, Atkinson 88)
TRANMERE ROVERS 1 (Aldridge 29 pen). **Att:** 40,000.
Agg: 4-4, Villa won 5-4 on pens

WEEKEND

WEST HAM 2 (Chapman 70, Morley 73)
MANCHESTER UTD 2 (Hughes 6, Ince 87). **Att:** 28,832.

ARSENAL 1 (Merson 73)
BLACKBURN 0. **Att:** 35,030.

LIVERPOOL 1 (Rush 2)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 38,547.

NORWICH 1 (Sutton 90)
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Watson 75). **Att:** 18,311.

SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Le Tissier 74)
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 14,790.

MANCHESTER CITY 2 (Horlock 25 og, Rocastle 50)
SWINDON 1 (Fjortoft 8). **Att:** 26,360.

CHELSEA 4 (Donaghy 29, Stein 32, 90 pen, Spencer 40)
TOTTENHAM 3 (Sedgley 17, Dozzell 18, Gray 72 pen). **Att:** 16,807.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

MIDWEEK

OLDHAM 1 (Beckford 85)
LEEDS UTD 1 (McAllister). **Att:** 11,136.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Rosenthal 74)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Parker 9). **Att:** 17,452.

FA CUP — 5TH RND REPLAYS

CHARLTON 2 (Pitcher 36 pen, Grant 90)
BRISTOL CITY 0. **Att:** 8,205.

IPSWICH 1 (Palmer 46)
WOLVES 2 (Mills 8, Thompson 38). **Att:** 19,385.

COCA-COLA CUP — SEMI-FINAL, 2ND LEG

SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Hyde 33)
MAN UNITED 4 (McClair 4, Kanchelsis 10, Hughes 38, 82). **Att:** 34,878.
Manchester Utd won 5-1 on agg

WEEKEND

MANCHESTER UNITED 0
CHELSEA 1 (Peacock 65). **Att:** 44,745.

BLACKBURN 2 (Wilcox 17, Sherwood 65)
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 20,831.

IPSWICH 1 (Dixon 68 og)
ARSENAL 5 (Wright 18, 40 pen, 86, Youds 24 og, Parlour 52). **Att:** 18,656.

SHEFFIELD WED 0
NEWCASTLE 1 (Cole 88). **Att:** 33,224.

LEEDS 0
SOUTHAMPTON 0. **Att:** 30,890.

WIMBLEDON 3 (Earle 37, 65, Holdsworth 75)
NORWICH 1 (Ekoku 6). **Att:** 7,206.

QPR 1 (Penrice 28)
MAN CITY 1 (Rocastle 55). **Att:** 13,474.

COVENTRY 0
ASTON VILLA 1 (Daley 20). **Att:** 14,235.

SWINDON 1 (Fjortoft 88)
WEST HAM 1 (Morley 48). **Att:** 14,924.

EVERTON 2 (Preki 40, Stuart 61)
OLDHAM 1 (Morley 48). **Att:** 18,837.

TOTTENHAM 2 (Scott 64, Dozzell 89)
SHEFFIELD UTD 2 (Gayle 57, Hodges 86). **Att:** 25,741.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 13

WEEKEND

NEWCASTLE 7 (Beardsley 12 pen, 70, Lee 17, 67, Watson 76, 79, Fox 84)

SWINDON 1 (Moncur 77). **Att:** 32,216.

ASTON VILLA 0
IPSWICH 1 (Johnson 8). **Att:** 23,732.

SHEFFIELD UTD 2 (Flo 74, Gayle 89)
LEEDS UTD 2 (Speed 28, Deane 58). **Att:** 19,425.

LIVERPOOL 2 (Rush 22, Fowler 44)
EVERTON 1 (Watson 21). **Att:** 44,281.

SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Monkou 78)
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Bart-Williams 67). **Att:** 16,391.

NORWICH 2 (Ekoku 9, 55, Bowen 87)
QPR 4 (Barker 49, Peacock 64, Penrice 70, White 84). **Att:** 16,499.

MAN CITY 0
WIMBLEDON 1 (Earle 31). **Att:** 23,981.

FA CUP — QUARTER-FINALS

BOLTON 0
OLDHAM 1 (Beckford 84). **Att:** 20,321.

MAN UNITED 3 (Hughes 46, Kanchelskis 71, 75)
CHARLTON 1 (Leaburn 77). **Att:** 44,347.

CHELSEA 1 (Peacock 58)
WOLVES 0. **Att:** 29,340.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 20

MIDWEEK

MANCHESTER UTD 5 (Giggs 14, Hughes 14, Ince 21, Cantona 45, 55)
SHEFFIELD WED 0. **Att:** 43,669.

CHELSEA 2 (Hopkin 21, Burley 73)
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 11,903.

LEEDS UTD 2 (Wallace 27, Deane 52)
ASTON VILLA 0. **Att:** 33,120.

SHEFFIELD UTD 1 (Blake 48)
QPR 1 (Barker 12). **Att:** 14,183.

FA CUP — QUARTER-FINAL

WEST HAM 0
LUTON TOWN 0. **Att:** 27,311.

WEEKEND

SWINDON 2 (Nijholt 36, Fjortoft 83)
MANCHESTER UTD 2 (Keane 13, Ince 62). **Att:** 18,102.

SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Watson 40)
BLACKBURN 2 (Wilcox 17, Newell 89). **Att:** 24,699.

WEST HAM 2 (Breacker 57, Martin 81)
NEWCASTLE 4 (Lee 34, 73, Cole 69, Mathie 90). **Att:** 23,132.

SOUTHAMPTON 0
ARSENAL 4 (Wright 18, 30, 68 pen, Campbell 84). **Att:** 16,790.

LEEDS UTD 1 (Wallace 54)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 30,023.

LIVERPOOL 2 (Rush 8, Burley 19 og)
CHELSEA 1 (Burley 50). **Att:** 38,629.

ASTON VILLA 1 (Redmond 58 og)
OLDHAM 2 (Beckford 67, Holden 74). **Att:** 21,214.

QPR 1 (Peacock 54)
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 11,368.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Barmby 56)
IPSWICH 1 (Kiwomya 11). **Att:** 26,653.

MANCHESTER CITY 0
SHEFFIELD UTD 0. **Att:** 25,448.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

WEEKEND

SCOTTISH CUP — 4TH RND

DUNDEE 3 (Britton 35, 59, Shaw 77)
ST MIRREN 1 (Lavety 15). **Att:** 6,040.

AIRDRIE 1 (Kirwood 64 pen)
STRANRAER 0. **Att:** 3,000.

RANGERS 6 (Ferguson 32, McPherson 44, McCoist 48, 71, 83 pen, Newbiggin 73 og)
ALLOA 0. **Att:** 37,804.

MORTON 0
KILMARNOCK 1 (Williams 17). **Att:** 7,700.

HIBERNIAN 1 (Wright 42)
HEARTS 2 (Robertson 2, Foster 86). **Att:** 20,953.

DUNDEE UTD 2 (Brewster 42, 56)
MOTHERWELL 2 (Kirk 31, Philliben 89). **Att:** 12,023.

ABERDEEN 1 (Miller 31)
RAITH ROVERS 0. **Att:** 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

WEEKEND

HIBERNIAN 0
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Nixon 58). **Att:** 7,021.

PARTICK v ST JOHNSTONE — *postponed*

DUNDEE v HEARTS — *postponed.*

MOTHERWELL v ABERDEEN — *postponed*

CELTIC v KILMARNOCK — *postponed*

RAITH ROVERS 1 (Crawford 13)
RANGERS 2 (Ferguson 70, Durie 78). **Att:** 8,988.

SCOTTISH CUP — 4TH RND

ST JOHNSTONE 3 (Dodds 16 pen, 47, Ferguson 90)
STIRLING 3 (Roberts 20, 26, Armstrong 76). **Att:** 3,759.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

MIDWEEK

CELTIC1 (Collins 89 pen)
KILMARNOCK 0. **Att:** 10,882.

DUNDEE 0
HEARTS 2 (Johnson 20 pen, 64). **Att:** 4,115.

SCOTTISH CUP — 4TH RND REPLAYS

MOTHERWELL 0
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Welsh 67). **Att:** 13,002.

STIRLING ALBION 0
ST JOHNSTONE 2 (Scott 22, Ferguson 42). **Att:** 2,447.

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 0
HEARTS 1 (Leitch 31). **Att:** 13,000.

HIBERNIAN 3 (Findlay 23, Wright 34, 45)
RAITH ROVERS 0. **Att:** 6,039

KILMARNOCK 1 (Brown 80)
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Black 44 og). **Att:** 7,403.

DUNDEE 1 (Shaw 68)
PARTICK THISTLE 0. **Att:** 3,600.

ST JOHNSTONE 0
CELTIC 1 (Byrne 1). **Att:** 8,622.

RANGERS 2 (Durie 65, Hateley 90 pen)
MOTHERWELL 1 (Lambert 63). **Att:** 43,669.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 13

MIDWEEK

MOTHERWELL 1 (McLeish 89 og)
ABERDEEN 1 (Shearer 38). **Att:** 7,018.

WEEKEND

MOTHERWELL 0
HIBERNIAN 0. **Att:** 7,126.

SCOTTISH CUP — QUARTER-FINALS

AIRDRIE 0
DUNDEE 0. **Att:** 8,500.

KILMARNOCK 1 (Brown 40)
DUNDEE 0. **Att:**10,446.

RANGERS 2 (Brown 49, Hateley 74)
HEARTS 0. **Att:** 41,666.

ST JOHNSTONE 1 (Dodds 60)
ABERDEEN 1 (Booth 30). **Att:** 8,447.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 20

MIDWEEK

RAITH ROVERS 3 (Graham 31, Cameron 44, Hetherston 75 pen)
KILMARNOCK 2 (McSkimming 51, Mitchell 53). **Att:** 3,585.

SCOTTISH CUP — QUARTER-FINAL REPLAYS

ABERDEEN 2 (Shearer 3, Richardson 14)
ST JOHNSTONE 0. **Att:** 14,500.

DUNDEE UTD 2 (McLaren 14, McKinlay 19)
AIRDRIE 0. **Att:** 9,355.

WEEKEND

DUNDEE UTD 2 (Brewster 40, Cleland 43)
PARTICK THISTLE 2 (Charnley 14 pen, Jamieson 65). **Att:** 6,005.

HIBERNIAN 0
CELTIC 0. **Att:** 14,705.

KILMARNOCK 2 (Black 63, McCloy 87)
ABERDEEN 3 (Miller 23, Shearer 56, Jess 68). **Att:** 8,550.

MOTHERWELL 3 (McQuillan 20 og, Coyne 31, Martin 38)
DUNDEE 1 (McQuillan 15). **Att:** 6,130.

RAITH ROVERS 2 (McStay 27, Cameron 57)
HEARTS 2 (Colquhoun 19, Levein 84). **Att:** 5,700.

RANGERS 4 (McCall 4, Hateley 24, McPherson 54, Durie 80)
ST JOHNSTONE 0. **Att:** 43,230.

NORTH AFRICA

MOROCCO

OLYMPIQUE TAKE ANOTHER TROPHY

OLYMPIQUE from Casablanca won the 1994 edition of the Arab Cup-winners Cup in Doha, Qatar, with a 1-0 win in the final over a Saudi Arabian team, Al Qadissya.

Sudanese club El Mourada reached the semi-finals, but lost 3-0 to Al Qadissya, while Olympic beat Etoile du Sahel of Tunisia 1-0.

Olympique also led the championship, with a handy seven-point gap between them and Raja Casablanca.

Raja won the derby match 2-1 against great rivals Wydad to claim a place in the Cup semi-finals, but have tough opposition in Kawkab Marrakesh.

In the other semi-final, OC Khouribga meet MAS Fes.

● *MOROCCO'S top goalkeeper, Khalil Azmy, has had a suspension quashed and will be available for the World Cup. He was banned after incidents in a match between his club, Raja Casablanca, and Olympique.*

EGYPT

OKYERE IN TROUBLE

NEW striker Joe Okyere is the subject of a row between the Egyptian Federation and the champions, Zamalek.

The club signed Okyere, a Ghanaian, to strengthen their assault on the title and on the African Champions Cup, but the Federation say that Zamalek already had their permitted three foreigners on the books. One of them, Othmano from Mali, was sold after only a month, but Okyere's registration was still ruled invalid.

The Zamalek coach, Mahmoud Algoury — who was national coach at the 1990 World Cup — claimed that his club were being unfairly handicapped as they go for a third successive championship.

The present national coach, Taha Ismael, has been having a tough time.

His team were beaten 2-0 by Norway's Under-21 side before drawing a second game 1-1, and injuries and suspensions have now deprived him of several leading players.

They include Ayman Mansour, Ahmed El Kass, Hany Ramzy and the Hassan twins, Ibrahim and Hossam.

OSAMA SADEK

ALGERIA

US CHAOUIA, Algeria's representatives in this year's CAF Cup, led the First Division table after 18 rounds.

They had a one point lead over AS Ain M'lila and another point over Bordj Menaiel and former African champions JS Kabylie.

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

THE Burkinabe capital, Ouagadougou, hosted the Black Stars tournament, in which the home team lost 1-0 in the final to Ivory Coast.

The Ivorians, without their European-based professionals, beat Niger 5-3 in the opening semi-final, with Abdoulaye Traore scoring four times.

Burkina Faso beat Guinea 5-4 on penalties in the second semi-final, which ended 1-1.

Niger surprised Guinea in the third-place play-off with a 3-1 win, before the Ivorians went on to win the two-day tournament in front of a 25,000 crowd.

IVORY COAST

FORMER international Ournar Ben Salah (below) has been released from prison in France seven months after being arrested for an attack on his six-year-old son.

Ben Salah, a member of the Ivorian African Nations Cup-winning squad of 1992, was sacked by French Second Division club Le Mans after his arrest.

GHANA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Nana Akosa Yiadom I, has resigned following the crises that have engulfed Kumasi Asante Kotoko, last season's champions of Ghana.

King Otumfuo Opoku Ware II, who owns the club, appointed a three-member committee to run matters temporarily. The players had a hand in the exit of their ch[illegible] executive. They accused the managem[illegible] of financial malpractices after their bonuses had been reduced. About £200,000 could not be accounted for af[illegible] various transfers had gone through.

Kotoko were in second place, three points behind Goldfields (18 points from 11 games) when the competition was sus[illegible]pended owing to the African Nations Cu[illegible]

MIKE AFRA[illegible]

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

PREVOYANCE had a one-point lead, fro[illegible] Aigles de Nkongsamba and Canon Yaounde, after the opening nine rounds o[illegible] the championship.

Roger Milla quit fourth-placed Tonnerre Yaounde after a row with the club president.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

NAMIBIA

THE Under-20 team celebrated the handing over of the port town of Walvis Bay, previously part of South African territory, with a 2-1 win over Zimbabwe.

Hoeseb scored twice after Robson Muchichwa had put Zimbabwe in the lead.

The Zimbabweans won the return in Windhoek 3-2, with two goals from Alex Mwama and one from Alois Bunjira. Lollo Goraseb struck twice for the Namibians.

SOUTH AFRICA

BARKER BACK AS THE BOSS

CLIVE BARKER has been appointed South Africa's new national coach, replacing Peruvian Augusto Palacios.

Barker, who turns 50 in June, is the fifth man to take charge of the side in just over two years of disastrous results on the country's return to the international arena.

He was born in Durban and recently had been coach of Durban club Amazulu, who finished third in the 1993 championship and won the 1992 Coca-Cola (League) Cup.

Barker also won three championship titles in the 1980s, with Durban City (1982, 1983) and Bush Bucks in 1985.

He has little international experience, but is known as one of South African soccer's best motivators, and will prove a public relations dream for the beleaguered SAFA.

Barker was a left-sided midfielder with Durban City before a knee injury cut short his career.

Palacios resigned in January to take up an offer with Turkish club Qenclerbirligi, but lasted less than a month, leaving after three successive defeats without a goal.

Palacios returned to South Africa and was expected to take over at Orlando Pirates after Phil Setshedi resigned. But Pirates went instead for Mike Makaab of Chatsworth Rangers. He is a cousin of former England Under-21 international Mich d'Avray, now coaching Cape Town Spurs.

Former Charlton player Roy Matthews has joined Boksburg as coach, after 10 years with Jomo Cosmos.

Kaizer Chiefs, who also have a new coach in Frenchman Philipe Troussier, won their second trophy of the new season to make up for a barren 1993. Chiefs took the Top Eight Cup in a dramatic final with perennial rivals Mamelodi Sundowns, winning 3-2 after extra time in front of 70,000 at Soccer City, Johannesburg.

Imports Wedson Nyirenda (Zambia), who got the first two, and Zimbabwean Mike Maringa scored for Chiefs, while South African internationals Sizwe Motaung and Daniel Mudau netted for Sundowns, last year's League champions.

Chiefs also won the pre-season Charity Spectacular in Johannesburg.

MARK GLEESON

SOUTH AFRICAN RESULTS
NSL CASTLE LEAGUE — 1ST DIVISION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

HELLENIC 1 (Stober 67)
CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Burton 56).

WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Otiti)
REAL ROVERS 0

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

AMAZULU 1 (Magagula 43)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 1 (Nhlapo 75).

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0
QWAQWA STARS 3 (S Moloi, Kazadi, Lubombo).

ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Maponyane 35)
ROYAL TIGERS 0

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 1 (Zwane 81)
KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (Nyirenda 79).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

CAPE TOWN SPURS 3 (Mhlanga 1, M Rodrigues 35, Jantjies 57)
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 1 (Maboe 70).

ROYAL TIGERS 0
WITS UNIVERSITY 0

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Ramasike 69)
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 0

PRETORIA CITY 3 (Maake 10, 60, Steenkamp 70)
HELLENIC 4 (Stober 25, 26, Callaghan 80, Pietersen 84).

QWAQWA STARS 1 (Lubombo)
VAAL PROFESSIONALS 1 (Serathi).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

KAIZER CHIEFS 2 (Shaw 3, Tovey 68)
UMTATA BUCKS 0

ORLANDO PIRATES 0
REAL ROVERS 0

WITBANK ACES 1 (Shili)
WITS UNIVERSITY 3 (Otit 2, Simunji).

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 3 (Cariem 9, Niemach 44, Zwane 89 pen)
REAL ROVERS 3 (Sebola 60, Vilakazi 71, Ramatsebe 87).

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 1 (Antonio 30)
PRETORIA CITY 1 (Steenkamp 35).

HELLENIC 2 (Young 52, Philander 69)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 1 (Ndlanya 81).

ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Motale 79 pen)
CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Jantjies 55).

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 2 (Masilo 26, Pitso 28)
KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (T Molatedi 86).

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 1 (Sakala 67)
UMTATA BUCKS 2 (Augustine 12, Wilfred Mugeyi 35).

MOROKA SWALLOWS 4 (Ramasike 1, 43, Sekano 16, 65)
WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Mohlala 73).

PRETORIA CITY 0
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 1 (Ndlovu 39).

QWAQWA STARS 0
HELLENIC 2 (Philander, Young).

REAL ROVERS 3 (Bapela 44, Nzeza 48, 53)
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 1 (Skosana 38).

ROYAL TIGERS 1 (Mbhele 65)
VAAL PROFESSIONALS 2 (Seoke 32, 87).

TOP EIGHT CUP — Quarter-finals

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

HELLENIC 1 (Callaghan 38)
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 3 (Mudau 72, Masilela 82, P Masinga 89).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Makgaledisa 73)
AMAZULU 1 (Nzimande 64).
Amazulu won 4-2 on pens

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0
ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Maponyane 62).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

UMTATA BUCKS 0
KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (Radebe).

TOP EIGHT CUP — Semi-finals

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (B Masinga 63 pen, Masilela 89)
ORLANDO PIRATES 0.

AMAZULU 1 (Magagula 11)
KAIZER CHIEFS 2 (Nyirenda 1, Amukola 89).

TOP EIGHT CUP — 3rd place play-off

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Maponyane 28, Mkhalele 50)
AMAZULU 1 (Farrer 1).

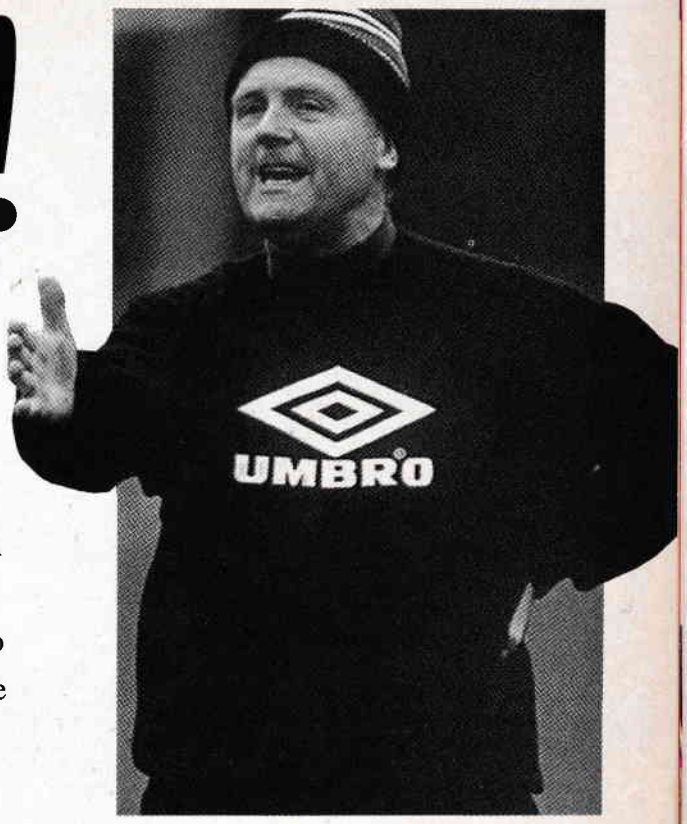
TOP EIGHT CUP — Final

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

KAIZER CHIEFS 3 (Nyirenda 51, 66, Maringa 99)
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (Motaung 19, Mudau 71)

HOWE'S BACK!

Don catches up with the new England revolution...



Coaching king Don Howe had 10 good years with England and piloted them through three World Cups. He quit the international scene after helping Bobby Robson take England to fourth place in the 1990 finals in Italy.

But now he's back, summoned by new supremo Terry Venables to help put England back on the world map. But will it affect his role with the AFCT and what persuaded him to return from the international wilderness? *Adrian Curtis reports...*

Don Howe has revealed how England's new international era was launched on the floor of Terry Venables's office over a Subbuteo pitch and eleven plastic players.

Howe, Venables and new under-21 boss Dave Sexton crawled around the office at the FA's headquarters working out the tactical strategies which hopefully will put England on top of the world.

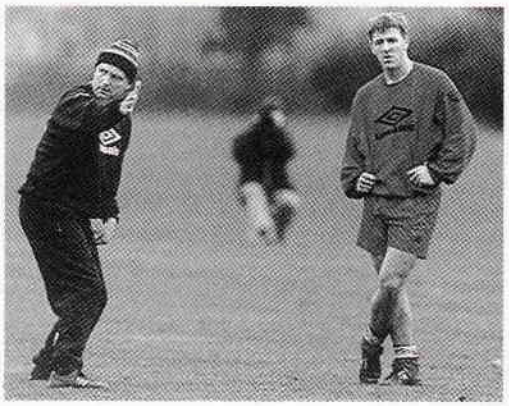
AFCT coach Howe is back in business thanks to the stimulation provided by Venables's new ideas and the enthusiasm shown over the green baize of the Subbuteo pitch is just the tip of a coaching revolution which hopefully will restore England's footballing pride.

But for Howe it marks the coaching return to an international stage he left with the arrival of Graham Taylor in 1990.

Three World Cups and seemingly endless summer tours with England had taken their toll. Howe says that he was "knackered" plain and simple.

So he left on amicable terms for a rest and a brief flirtation with club management once again.

His thoughts of a return to the England stage were long forgotten until the FA installed Venables as the new supremo and then it all changed once more.



Howe reveals: "I have to say that after Italy I was well and truly knackered and I'd had enough at that time. I needed a rest.

"It was a good time to move on and I honestly thought at the time that was it.

"Then four years later, Terry takes over and I get a phone call. He asks me if I would like to come and work with him on his coaching staff.

"I was stimulated by Terry's ideas and that's what I needed. I went to the FA to meet him and found I was just excited by his plans.

"The next meeting we had was with Terry and Dave and soon all three of us were on the floor in his office using a Subbuteo pitch and men to go through certain ideas.

"I feel really good about the new era. What I'm hoping for is to cut corners for Terry. I'm hoping to use my experience to tell him the things that haven't worked in the past and try to save him going down the wrong route and finding out by trial and error.

"I'm as optimistic as I've ever been about England but then I always thought Graham Taylor was one of the unluckiest of England managers and I don't care how talented you are, everybody needs a bit of luck in life. He was the unluckiest manager I have ever seen. Nobody deserved the injuries and the decisions that went against him. It just wouldn't go for him no matter what he tried."

But Howe's return might not be for the long period everybody thinks.

"It's only on a match by match basis," he confesses. "We'll re-assess it again in the summer. But the nice thing about it is that when I was involved before, I would leave the England set-up and go back to my club, now I'm in a position to do what I like after every game. And when I do get back with the England squad for the Germany game, it will be refreshing again. I feel better for it being that way."

But even if he doesn't stay with the England set-up, a return to club management is definitely a non-starter and nor will the new England role affect his involvement with *WORLD SOCCER'S* AFCT venture.

He added: "I won't go back into full-time management with a club, no way. My club days are over. I would do part-time work but never go back full-time. I feel better being my own boss.

"Being with the England squad won't affect my involvement with the AFCT. It's a new association but we're doing this for the good of football and if I can help our young players in any way, then I want to be involved."

HOW TO JOIN THE AFCT

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RESULTS

Nilis hat-trick for Anderlecht . . . Benfica thrash Famalicao 8-0 . . .

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA WIEN 0
SALZBURG 4

MODLING 4
ST POLTEN 1

SPORTCLUB 1
ADMIRA WACKER 1

VORWARTS 0
STURM GRAZ 0

WACKER INNSBRUCK 0
RAPID WIEN 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 13

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA SALZBURG 0
MODLING 0

ADMIRA WACKER 2
WACKER INNSBRUCK 0

STURM GRAZ 3
SPORTCLUB 1

RAPID WIEN 1
AUSTRIA WIEN 1

ST POLTEN 0
VORWARTS STEYR

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 20

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA WIEN 3
ADMIRA WACKER 1

MODLING 0
RAPID WIEN 0

VORWARTS 1
SPORTCLUB 1

INNSBRUCK 2
STURM GRAZ 1

ST POLTEN 0
SALZBURG 0

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

WEEKEND

BELGIAN CUP — QUARTER-FINALS

EKEREN 2 (Halmai 31, Abeels 78)
CHARLEROI 0. Att: 7,000.

ANTWERP 0
CLUB BRUGGE 3 (Medved 12, Van der Heyden 43, Plovie 57). Att: 12,000.

BEERSCHOT 1 (Camerman 97)
ANDERLECHT 3 (Degryse 102, Versavel 109, Bosman 118). Att: 12,000.

RWDM 2 (Ernes 6, Laeremans 20)
LOMMEL 0. Att: 3,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

WEEKEND

GENT 3 (De Roover 35, Booy 70, Karacic 88)
MECHELEN 1 (Vangompel 82). Att: 8,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Weber 83)
RWDM 0. Att: 3,000.

STANDARD 2 (Cruz 62, Goossens 90)
CHARLEROI 0. Att: 15,000.

LIERSE 3 (Desmet 34, Pauwels 60, Rekdal 67)
EKEREN 2 (Pierre 18, Berrevoets 20). Att: 5,000.

LOMMEL 0
CLUB BRUGGE 0. Att: 11,000.

WAREGEM 2 (Teppers 42 og, Vigmar 67)
SERAING 1 (Wamberto 13). Att: 4,000.

ANDERLECHT 3 (Boffin 71, Wallem 75, Nilis 90)
BEVEREN 2 (Udovic 13, Van Overtvelt 20). Att: 17,000.

ANTWERP 3 (Porte 54, Lehnoff 85, Aloisi 90)
GENK 1 (Katana 89). Att: 3,000.

OOSTENDE 2 (Maes 7, Van Veirdeghem 23)
LIEGE 0. Att: 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

WEEKEND

CHARLEROI 1 (Misse Misse 72)
LIERSE 0. Att: 12,000.

GENK 2 (Claessens 11, Bucan 24)
WAREGEM 1 (Atteveld 73). Att: 5,000.

STANDARD 0
OOSTENDE 0. Att: 10,000.

SERAING 2 (Lukaku 68, Varga 88)
LIEGE 0. Att: 8,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 0
ANDERLECHT 0. Att: 18,000.

MECHELEN 0
CERCLE BRUGES 4 (Weber 4, 16, 70, Frenay 25). Att: 7,500.

EKEREN 4 (Tahamata 40, Talbut 43, Hoemans 53, 61)
LOMMEL 1 (Mukanya 3). Att:3,000.

RWDM 0
ANTWERP 1 (Severeyns 14). Att: 2,500.

BEVEREN 3 (Udovic 32, 55, Van Overtvelt 63)
GENT 1 (Viscaal 70). Att: 4,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 20

WEEKEND

CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Weber 33)
BEVEREN 0. Att: 2,000.

WAREGEM 1 (De Meersman 14)
RWDM 2 (Williams 30, Rubenilson 52). Att: 4,500.

OOSTENDE 0
SERAING 0. Att: 7,200.

GENT 0
CLUB BRUGGE 4 (Staelens 28, 80, Van der Heyden 34, Verheyen 63). Att: 12,000.

LIERSE 1 (Snelders 32)
STANDARD 0. Att: 5,000.

LIEGE 4 (Arnold 23, 65, 78, Sebwe 58)
GENK 0. Att: 3,500.

ANTWERP 0
MECHELEN 0. Att: 7,000.

LOMMEL 2 (Van Geneugden 64, Peeters 83)
CHARLEROI 0. Att: 7,000.

ANDERLECHT 5 (Bosman 18, Nilis 22, 24, 37, Degryse 35, Hofmans 59)
EKEREN 1 Verstraeten 74). Att: 12,000.

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

WEEKEND

WILLEM II 0
RODA JC 3 (Van Galen 35, Babangida 90, 91). Att: 6,000.

MVV 2 (Lanckohr 63, Benneker 89)
PSV EINDHOVEN 1 (Ingesson 12). Att: 8,500.

HEERENVEEN 1 (Regtop 67)
CAMBUUR 2 (De Gier 80, Meijer 85). Att: 14,000.

SPARTA 4 (Bogarde 7, De Nooijer 32, Van Der Lean 73 73, Van Eck 84)
VITESSE 1 (Korsten 43). Att: 3,000.

GA EAGLES 2 (Steinmann 49, Rorije 90)
VVV 0. Att: 5,000.

NAC BREDA 3 (Lokhoff 29, Van Hooijdonk 38, Lammers 62)
RKC 0. Att: 8,800.

AJAX 3 (Seedorf 7, Litmanen 14, Davids 32)
UTRECHT 0. Att: 19,199.

GRONINGEN 1 (Huizingh 52)
TWENTE 1 (Pahlplatz 11). Att: 7,800.

VOLENDAM 1 (Van Loen 57)
FEYENOORD 0. Att: 8,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MIDWEEK

CAMBUUR 0
FEYENOORD 0.

WEEKEND

NAC BREDA v VOLENDAM — *postponed*

RODA v AJAX — *postponed*

RKC v VITESSE — *postponed*

PSV v SPARTA — *postponed*

UTRECHT 3 (DeJong 31, 59, De Kruyf 60)
MVV 0. Att: 4,000.

FEYENOORD v GRONINGEN — *postponed*

CAMBUUR v WILLEM II — *postponed*

TWENTE 1 (Polley 87)
GA EAGLES 1 (Kammeron 61). Att: 6,700.

VVV v HEERENVEEN — *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

MIDWEEK

FEYENOORD 0
HEERENVEEN 0. Att: 20,686.

WEEKEND

WILLEM II 3 (Van Hintum 15 pen, Latupeirissa 20, Stewart 78)
VVV 0. Att: 6,040.

MVV 1 (Lanckohr 10)
RODA JC 0. Att: 8,800.

HEERENVEEN v TWENTE — *postponed*

SPARTA 3 (Van DerLaan 27, D. De Nooijer 51, 56)
UTRECHT 2 (Van Der Net 12, 81). Att: 6,785.

GA EAGLES 1 (Huysen 48)
FEYENOORD 1 (Blinker 60). Att: 10,000.

VITESSE 0
PSV EINDHOVEN 0. Att:8,887.

AJAX 3 (Petterson 73, Van Vossen 80, Litmanen 62)
CAMBUUR 2 (Meijer 36, Elzinga 44). Att: 9,650.

GRONINGEN 0
NAC BREDA 0. Att: 10,824.

VOLENDAM 3 (Steur 60, Wasiman 70, Ordam 92)
RKC 1 (Boogers 89). Att: 2,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 13

MIDWEEK

HEERENVEEN 2 (Regtop 40, 88)
TWENTE 2 (Polley 60, Boerebach 61). Att: 7,004.

TWENTE 1 (Haas 44)
FEYENOORD 1 (Polley 81). Att: 10,029.

RKC 0
MVV 2 (Lankohr 10, Knarren 85). Att: 1,250.

DUTCH CUP — QUARTER-FINAL

NAC BREDA 0
FEYENOORD 3 (Taument 13, Scholten 44, Bos 76). Att: 11,500.

WEEKEND

NAC BREDA 2 (Lokhoff 51, Cammers 81)
GA EAGLES 2 (Heering 42 pen, Kammeron 67). Att: 9,222.

RODA JC 4 (Hofstede 6, Vangalen 73, Trost 85, Babangida 87)
SPARTA 0. Att: 3,450.

RKC 1 (Van Aarden 85)
PSV EINDHOVEN 1 (Van Der Gaag 87). Att: 5,670.

VOLENDAM 1 (Pastoor 72)
GRONINGEN 0. Att: 2,500.

UTRECHT 2 (Van Den Ark 21, 57)
VITESSE 1 (Gillhaus 44 pen). Att: 5,500.

CAMBUUR 2 (Meijer 23, Bruin 83)
MVV 1 (Joordens 6). Att: 7,000.

TWENTE v WILLEM II — *postponed*

VVV 0
AJAX 1 (Van Den Brom 1). Att: 14,189.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 20

WEEKEND

WILLEM II 2 (Abdellaoui 57, Sylla 75 pen)
FEYENOORD 1 (Heus 66 pen). Att: 12,700.

MVV 0
VVV 0. Att: 5,700.

HEERENVEEN 1 (Regtop 16)
NAC BREDA 3 (Brusselers 56, Van Hodijdonk 57, Lammers 90). Att: 12,500.

SPARTA 4 (Van Der Laan 23, Van Den Berg 28 pen, De Nooyer 30, 89)
CAMBUUR 0. Att: 3,250.

GA EAGLES 0
VOLENDAM 1 (Stefanouitsj 78). Att: 5,000.

VITESSE 1 (Loeffen 13)
RODA JC 3 (Doomernik 23, Huiberts 42, Van Der Luer 63). Att: 5,570.

AJAX v TWENTE — *postponed*

GRONINGEN 1 (Wilson 77)
RKC 2 (Valk 34, V Bronkhorst 65). Att: 4,650.

PSV EINDHOVEN 1 (Ellerman 51)
UTRECHT 0. Att: 24,750.

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

MIDWEEK

PORTUGUESE CUP — QUARTER-FINALS

SPORTING LISBON 3 (Capucho 29, Yordanov 52, Porfirio 88)
TROFENSE 1 (Jo 13). Att: 15,000.

FC PORTO 6 (Timofte 26 pen, Jorge Costa 32, Domingos 70, 81, Rui Filipe 78, 86)
AVES 0. Att: 20,000.

RIO AVE 0
AMADORA 3 (Paulo Ferreira 24, Fernando 58, Paulinho 83). Att: 6,000.

LOUROSA 2 (Simone 22, Tito 88)
BELENENSES 0. Att: 10,000.

WEEKEND

BENFICA1 (Pineida 89 pen)
BEIRA-MAR 0. Att: 40,000.

MARITIMO 1 (Heitor 63)
ESTORIL 1 (Jose Carlos 82). Att: 8,250.

FAMALICAO 0
FC PORTO 5 (Drulovic 37, 78, Kostadinov 44, 63, 79). Att: 10,000.

SPORTING BRAGA 0
BOAVISTA 1 (Sanchez 39). Att: 15,000.

PACOS FERREIRA 2 (Yulian 79, Rudi 87)
GUIMARAES 2 (Ziad 13, Tanta 59). Att: 12,400.

SALGUEIROS 2 (Rui Neves 13, Milovac 80)
GIL VICENTE 1 (Toze 40). Att: 6,700.

AMADORA 1 (Ricardo 45)
FARENSE 2 (Hassan 71, Pitico 90). Att: 4,730.

SETUBAL 2 (Yekini 73, Rosario 88)
UNIAO MADEIRA 3 (Marco Aurelio 20, Pedro Paulo 24, Manu 32). Att: 7,000.

BELENENSES 0
SPORTING LISBON 3 (Balakov 12, Yordanov 18, Figo 20). Att: 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

WEEKEND

ESTORIL 1 (Jose Carlos 61)
FAMALICAO 1 (Vieira 19). Att: 5,150.

BEIRA-MAR 3 (Carlos Costa 13, 60, Vinagre 75)
MARITIMO 1 (Gustavo 87). Att: 6,200.

FC PORTO 5 (Carlos 23, Kostadinov 53, 63 pen, 66, Bandeirinha 78)
SPORTING BRAGA 0. Att: 35,000.

BOAVISTA 2 (Sanchez 28, Jaime Alves 80)
PACOS FERREIRA 0. Att: 5,000.

GUIMARAES 1 (Ziad 53)
SALGUEIROS 0. Att: 8,300.

GIL VICENTE 2 (Toze 19, Tuck 21)
SETUBAL 1 (Yekini 70 pen). Att: 4,000.

UNIOA MADEIRA 2 (Tico 32, Rodrigo 90)
BELENENSES 0. Att: 4,000.

SPORTING LISBON 3 (Iordanov 7, 10, Capucho 24)
AMADORA 0. Att: 35,000.

FARENSE 0
BENFICA 0. Att: 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

WEEKEND

MARITIMO 1 (Aeitor 53)
BENFICA 1 (Joao V Pinto 71). Att: 16,000.

FAMALICAO 2 (Freitas 67 pen, Barnjak 74)
BEIRA-MAR 1 (Dino 23). Att: 9,350.

SPORTING BRAGA 2 (Jaime Pacheco 71, Toni 88)
ESTORIL 1 (Christian 9). Att: 10,000.

PACOS FERREIRA 0
FC PORTO 2 (Timofte 10, Kostadinov 54). Att: 15,000.

SPORTING LISBON 3 (Yordanov 18, Valckx 43, Nelson 48)
FARENSE 1 (Pitigo 89). Att: 50,000.

SALGUEIROS 2 (Milovac 47, Sa Pinto 84)
BOAVISTA 0. Att: 12,000.

AMADORA 2 (Ricardo 37, 47)
UNIAO MADEIRA 0. Att: 8,000.

SETUBAL 1 (Yekini 59)
GUIMARAES 0. Att: 18,000.

BELENENSES 1 (M'Be 1)
GIL VICENTE 0. Att: 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 13

WEEKEND

ESTORIL 2 (Ivan 70, Jose Carlos 85)
PACOS FERREIRA 1 (Bozinoski 76 pen). Att: 5,000.

BEIRA-MAR 0
SPORTING BRAGA 0. Att: 7,000.

FC PORTO 1 (Timofte 28 pen)
SALGUEIROS 0. Att: 47,000.

BENFICA 8 (Celestino 26 og, 71 og, Rui Costa 31, Alton 33, Yuran 59, 87, Mozer 69, Rui Aguas 74)
FAMALICAO 0. Att: 20,000.

BOAVISTA 1 (Nelo 24)
SETUBAL 0. Att: 2,500.

GUIMARAES 3 (Ziad 18, 30, 42)
BELENENSES 0. Att: 15,000.

GIL VICENTE 1 (Magonga 19)
AMADORA 0. Att: 6,000.

UNIAO MADEIRA 0
SPORTING LISBON 0. Att: 7,000.

FARENSE 0
MARITIMO 0. Att: 9,600.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 20

WEEKEND

FAMALICAO 0
MARITIMO 2 (P. Madeira 165, Alex 34). Att: 15,000.

SPORTING BRAGA 0
BENFICA 2 (Isaias 45, Ailton 79). Att: 25,000.

UNIAO MADEIRA 0
FARENSE 0. Att: 7,000.

PACOS FERREIRA 1 (Yulian 9)
BEIRA-MAR 1 (Xavier 90). Att: 8,400.

SPORTING LISBON 6 (Vujacic 22, Juskowiak 24, 45, Figo 42, Balakov 62, 85)
GIL VICENTE 0. Att: 35,000.

SALGUEIROS 4 (Abilio 45 pen, 62, Toze 47, Joni 89)
ESTORIL 1 (Jovanela 11). Att: 9,650.

AMADORA 0
GUIMARAES 1 (Basaula 66). Att: 8,200.

SETUBAL 3 (C. Conde 45, 62, P. Gomes 54 pen)
FC PORTO 3 (Drulovic 2, Kostadinov 7, 38). Att: 10,000.

BELENENSES 2 (C. Montalagre 30, V. Manuel 79)
BOAVISTA 1 (Jame Alves 32). Att: 6,000.

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

WEEKEND

SERVETTE 1
YOUNG BOYS 1

LUCERNE 2
SION 2

LUGANO 2
LAUSANNE 1

GRASSHOPPER 1
AARAU 2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

WEEKEND

YOUNG BOYS 1 (Hartmann 15)
LUCERNE 1 (Wolf 21). Att: 5,900.

SION 0
LUGANO 0. Att: 8,200.

LAUSANNE 2 (Snoby 50 pen, 73)
GRASSHOPPER 3 (Willems 13, Gren 20, Koller 25). Att: 4,500.

AARAU 1 (Komornicki 80)
SERVETTE 1 (Neuville 17). Att: 5,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

WEEKEND

SERVETTE 4 (Neuville 14, Miid 17, Sinval 32, 35)
SION 3 (Assis 60 pen, Schepull 75 og, Orlando 78). Att: 7,200.

LUCERNE 1 (Galvao 12)
LAUSANNE 2 (Komor 66, Heldiann 77). Att: 2,000.

LUGANO 1 (Romano 16)
AARAU 2 (Sogby 66, Kaslin 71). Att: 7,500.

GRASSHOPPER 4 (Koller 35, Yakin 38, Elber 71, 81)
YOUNG BOYS 0. Att: 8,979.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 13

WEEKEND

YOUNG BOYS 0
LUGANO 0. Att: 5,400.

SION 1 (Marcio 2)
GRASSHOPPER 0. Att: 11,000.

LAUSANNE 0
SERVETTE 3 (Renato 63, Grassi 78, Neuville 89). Att: 5,400.

AARAU 3 (Romano 45, Kucharski 59, 67)
LUCERNE 0. Att: 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 20

WEEKEND

SERVETTE 1 (Sival 37)
LUGANO 0. Att: 5,800.

YOUNG BOYS 0
LAUSANNE 4 (Alexandre 37, Sylvestre 39, Koniseski 80, Sogbie 83). Att: 4,850.

LUCERNE 3 (Rueda 56, Wolf 78, Tuce 89 pen)
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Magnin 86). Att: 8,900.

SION 1 (Bonvin 9)
AARAU 1 (Kuchasrski 32). Att: 7,800.

RESULTS

England make winning start under Venables . . . Croatia win 2-0 in Sp

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

● *For African Nations Cup results and statistics, see separate feature on pages 4-6.*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Feb 23 = Istanbul — intl friendly
TURKEY 1 (Ertugal 4)
CZECH REPUBLIC 4 (Novotny 12, Latal 18, Siegl 59, 63)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Dellwing (Ger)
Turkey: Hayrettin — Ali, Tugay (Yusuf 46), Bulent — Recep, Suat (Hami 63), Oguz,K Bulent, Abdullah — Ertugrul (Orhan 46), Hakan.
Czech Rep: Stejskal — Latal (Samec 85), Suchoparek, Kadlec, Novotny — Poborsky (Repka 80), Nemecek, Nemec, Frydek (Smejkal 75) — Siegl (Vonacek 85), Kuka.

Feb 23 = Tel-Aviv — intl friendly
ISRAEL 2 (Ohana 27, 89)
GEORGIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Likovitch (Isr)
Israel: R Cohen (Ginzburg 46) — A Harazi (Keissy 46), Klinger, Shelah, Biton — R Levi, Hazan (Ben Shimon 69), Nimny (Attar 46; Torgeman 80), Berkovitz (Zohar 46) — R Harazi (Tykvah 46), Ohana.
Georgia: Dobze — Fredze, Tskhadadze, Lobonikze, Zishkarianu — Djamrauli, Romoshvili, Nemsadje (Oloshvili 46), S Arbeladze (Gourouli 46) — Tougoushi (Kabalashvili 46), A Arbeladze.

Feb 23 = Bamako — friendly
MALI 0
GHANA 0
Att: 5,000.
Mali: Farota — A K Sidibe, M Sidibe, Dembele, Y Diop — Se Sangare, H Sangare, M Keita, S L Traore (B Traore) — Soumano (A Traore), Soro Camara (S I Toure).
Ghana: E Ansah — Amankwah, Whyte, Manso, Ampeah — J Addo (J Acheampong), Laud, Owusu, Obeng (A Duah) — Moro, Okyere.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Feb 24 = Casablanca — intl friendly
MOROCCO 0
FINLAND 0
Att: 12,000. **Ref:** Belleftouh (Mor)
Morocco: Deghay — Nacer, Triki, Lagraoui, Naybet — Mjid, El Haddaoui (El Ouali), Azzouzi (El Khalej; Hajri), Daoudi — Hadji, Chaouch (Nader).
Finland: Jakonnen — Petaja, Keikinen, Kamarua, Lindberg — Suominen, Kinnunen, Altonen, Sumiala — Nurmela, Paavola.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Feb 25 = Fresno — friendly
MEXICO 2 (Hernandez 33, Rodriguez 58)
SWEDEN 1 (Mild 81)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 27, 172. **Ref:** Briandhold (US)
Mexico: Campos — Hernandez (Del Olmo 71), Suarez, Ramirez Perales, Ramirez — Ambriz, Rodriguez, A Garcia Aspe (Gallaga 46), Galindo — Duana (Guzman 46), Hermosillo*.
* Hermosillo sent off, 44min.
Sweden: Ravelli (Eriksson 46) — Kaamark, Erlingmark, Bjorklund, M Nilsson — Limpar, Rehn, Jansson, Mild — Kinnvall (Blomqvist 78), Eklund (Andersson 67).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Feb 26 = Monterrey — friendly
COLOMBIA 2 (Al Escobar 74, Aristizabal 87)
SOUTH KOREA 2 (Kim Pan-keun 62, Hwang Sun-hong 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000.
Colombia: Cordoba — Herrera (Mendoza 46), Perea, An Escobar, Perez — Serna, Alvarez, Gomez, Ai Escobar — M Asprilla (Aristizabal 46), Valenciano (Trellez 46).
S Korea: Choi In-young — Shin Hong-gi, Kang Chul, An Ik-soo, Gu Sang-bum (Kim Pan-keun 38) — Hong Myung-bo, Cho Jin-ho, Lee Young-jin, Ko Jung-woon (Ha Seok-u 58) — Seo Jung-woon, Hwang Sun-hong.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Feb 28 = Moanda — friendly
GABON 0
SENEGAL 0
Att: 10,000. **Ref:** Diramba (Gab)
Gabon: Babe — Ndong, Mombo (Nkouma), Nyangala, Amegasse — Kassa Ngoma (Makaya), Ondo, Ndong Nze, Manon — Aubame (Retoa), Nzamba.
Senegal: Seck (Ndiaye) — M M Diallo, L Cisse, Male, A Mendy — Gassama, M Camara, Tendeng, Mackel — S Diatta, M Diarra.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

Mar 3 = Mexico City — friendly
MEXICO 0
COLOMBIA 0
Att: 80,000. **Ref:** Aluzniewski (Uru)
Mexico: Campos — Hernandez (Gallaga), Suarez, Ramirez Perales, Ramirez (Bernal) — Ambriz, Rodriguez, Garcia Aspe (Del Olmo), Galindo — Luis Garcia, Duana (Hermosillo).
Colombia: Cordoba — Herrera, Escobar, Perez, Perea — Restrepo (A Asprilla), Alvarez, Gomez, Cerna — Aristizabal, Trellez.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Mar 9 = Wembley — intl friendly
ENGLAND 1 (Platt 17)
DENMARK 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 71,970. **Ref:** Ullenberg (Hol)
England: Seaman — Parker, Adams, Pallister, Le Saux — Platt, Gascoigne (Le Tissier 66), Ince (Batty 66), Beardsley, Anderton — Shearer.
Denmark: Schmeichel — Kjelbjerg, Rieper, L Olsen, Dethlefsen — Jensen, Vilfort (J Hogh 71), M Laudrup, Larsen — B Christensen (Frederiksen 71), B Laudrup.

Mar 9 = Budapest — intl friendly
HUNGARY 1 (Eszenyi 75)
SWITZERLAND 2 (Sforza 10, Subiat 30)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Gadosi (Slovak)
Hungary: Z Vegh — Mracsko, Banfi (Marton 46), Urban (Lipcsei 46), Kereszturi, Pisont, T Balog (Illes 68), Detari (Halmai 46), Hamar (Eszenyi 46), Klausz, Vincze.
Switzerland: Pascolo — Hottiger, Herr, Geiger, Quentin, Ohrel, Bregy, Sforza (Wyss 46), A Sutter (Fournier 77), Subiat, Grassi.

Mar 9 = Lagos — intl friendly
NIGERIA 0
GHANA 0
Att: 40,000.
Nigeria: Agbonavbare (Agu) — Eguavon, Iroha, Okechukwu, Okafor — Oliha (Okocha), Finidi George, Oliseh, Amunike — Amokachi (Ikpeba), Yekini.
Ghana: E Ansah — Amankwah, Whyte, Ampeah, Manso (A Duah) — S Johnson, G Arthur, A Moses (Acheampong) — Laud, B Obeng, Eben Hagan.

Mar 9 = Cardiff — intl friendly
WALES 1 (Coleman 89)
NORWAY 3 (Flo 6, Mykland 49, J I Jacobsen 51)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** John Ferry (Northern Ireland)
Wales: Southall — Phillips, Young, Melville, Coleman, Perry, Horne, Blake (Pembridge 59), Speed (Saunders 59), Rush, M Hughes (C Hughes 46).
Norway: Grodas — Loken, T Pedersen, Berg, Bjornebye, Flo, Mykland, Bohinen, Fjortoft (Frigard 79), Rekdal (Solbakken 68), J I Jakobsen.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Mar 12 = Fullerton, Calif — intl friendly
UNITED STATES 1 (Balboa 64)
SOUTH KOREA 1 (Artmstrong og 32)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,319. **Ref:** Parra (Can)
US: Friedel — Balboa, Lalas, Armstrong (Agoos 46), Caligiuri (Clavijo 46), Burns, Dooley, Henderson, Jones, Perez (Quinn 88), Klopas (Reyna 59).
S Korea: In Young Choi — Pan Kuen Kim, Ik Soo An, Hong Gi Shin, Chul Kang, Myung Bo Hong, Young Jin Lee, Young Il Choi (Jung Won Seo 46), Jeong Woon Ko, Sun Hong Hwang, Seok Ju Ha (Jin Ho Cho 46; Moon Sik Choi 80).

Mar 12 = Lusaka — friendly
ZAMBIA 2 (Saileti 11, Kalunga 47)
ZIMBABWE 1 (Nyangela 45)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000.
Zambia: J Phiri — Sichikolo, M Malitoli, Litana, Chiyangi — Chilumba, Tembo, Lungu, Siwale — M Phiri, Saileti (Kalunga).
Zimbabwe: Mugaza — Mbambo, Mhewe, J Dube, Shonhayi — Murazikwa, Nyangela, Mucherahowa (Renemhwota), Mukabdawire — Chiwuri, Takawira (J Mugabe).

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Mar 15 = Haifa — friendly intl
ISRAEL 1 (Eli Ohana 15)
UKRAINE 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Mar 16 = Cairo — intl friendly
EGYPT 0
CAMEROON 0
Att: 35,000.

MONDAY, MARCH 21

Mar 21 = Utsunomiya — friendly
JAPAN 1
ICELAND 2
Att: 10,000.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

Mar 22 = Lyon — friendly
FRANCE 3 (Papin 7, Djorkaeff 35, Martins 50)
CHILE 1 (Zamorano 11)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Arceo (Spa)
France: Lama — Angloma, Roche (Le Guen 78), Desailly (Karembeu 72), Lizarazu — Deschamps, Djorkaeff (Martins 46), Ferri — Cocard, Papin, Ginola (Vahirua 46).
Chile: Tapia — R Fuentes — Lopez, C Fuentes, Jaque — Tupper (Alvarez 60), Parraguez, Estay (Tudor 83), Lepe — Zamorano, Gonzalez (Rojas 73).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

Mar 23 = Stuttgart — friendly
GERMANY 2 (Klinsmann 45, 47)
ITALY 1 (D Baggio 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** McCluskey (Sco)
Germany: Illgner — Strunz, Brehme, Kohler (Berthold 72), Effenberg, Buchwald, Moller, Hassler (Basler 78), Klinsmann, Matthaus, Sammer.
Italy: Pagliuca — Benarrivo, Maldini, D Baggio (Stroppa 71), Costacurta, Baresi, Donadoni, Albertini (Evani 46), Casiraghi (Massaro 64), Mancini (Zola 46), Signori.

Mar 23 = Belfast — friendly
NORTHERN IRELAND 2 (Morrow 42, Gray 49)
ROMANIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,500. **Ref:** Burge (Wal)
N Ireland: Wright — Flemming, Taggart, Donaghy, C Wilson, Magilton, Morrow, Lomas, M Hughes (Black 46), J Quinn (Dowie 76), Gray.
Romania: Prunea (Stelea 73) — Belodedici, Prodan, Popescu (Gilca 76), Petrescu (Moldovan 70), Sabau (Mihali 70), Lupescu, Hagi*, Munteanu, Raducioiu, Dumitrescu.
* *Hagi sent off.*

Mar 23 = Skopje — friendly
MACEDONIA 2 (Micevski, Boskovski)
SLOVENIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000.

Mar 23 = Linz — friendly
AUSTRIA 1 (Pfeifenberger 30)
HUNGARY 1 (Illes 20)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 19,000. **Ref:** Cinciripini (Ita)
Austria: Wohlfahrt (Konrad 46) — Schottel, Kogler, Pfeffer*, Winklhofer (Hutter 46), Reinmayr (Prosenik 46), Stoger (Streiter 54), Herzog, Feiersinger, Pfeifenberger, Polster (Cerny 46).
*Pfeffer sent off, 54min.
Hungary: Vegh — Telek, Meszoly, Lipcsei, Mracsko (Keller 46), Halmai, Gy Bognar Ivanic** 52), Illes, Kereszturi*, Csertoi (Orosz 52), Klaus.
* *Kereszturi sent off, 67min; ** Ivanic sent off, 73.*

Mar 23 = Luxembourg — friendly
LUXEMBOURG 1 (Wolf 72)
MOROCCO 2 (Harabi 5, El Hadrioui 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000.
Luxembourg: Koch — Ferron, Strasser, Holtz, Wolf, Cardoni (Thome 68), Birsens, Weiss, Fanelli (Morocutti 60), Langers (Marchione 83), Groff.
Morocco: D'Ghay (Azmi 46) — Abdellah, Triki, Abrami, Lagrourni, Daoudi (El Hadrioui 77), M'Tid, Kachloul (Fertout 40), Ben Mahoud, Hababi, Hadji.

Mar 23 = Glasgow-Hampden — friendly
SCOTLAND 0
HOLLAND 1 (Roy 22)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Nielsen (Den)
Scotland: Goram — McKimmie, Robertson (Collins 65), McLaren, Hendry, Levein (Jess 66), McCall, McStay (McKinlay 46), Durie, McAllister, Nevin (Boyd 46).
Holland: De Goey — Van Gobbel, F De Boer, Blind, Rob Witschge, Jonk, Taument (Overmars 78), Rijkaard, Bosman (Winter 46), Bergkamp (Gillhaus 46), Roy.

Mar 23 = Salonika — friendly
GREECE 0
POLAND 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Angelov (Bul)
Greece: Minou (Atmatsidis 46) — Apostolakis (Karataidis 46; Ioannou 88), Kolitsidakis, Kalitzakis, Manolas (Alexiou 46), Tsaluhidis, Saravakos (Tuntziaris 46), Nioplias (Kofidis 46), Hantzidis (Machlas 39), Mitropulos, Tsiantakis.
Poland: Wozniak — Grembocki (Czerwec 82), Waldoch, Jegor, Lapinski (Mokal 53), Szewczyk — Jalocha, Fedoruk (Szubert 82), Gesior, Kosecki, Kowalczyk (Cebula 46).

Mar 23 = Dublin — friendly
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND 0
RUSSIA 0
Att: 34,550. **Ref:** Fallstrom (Swe)
Republic of Ireland: Bonner (A Kelly 46) — G Kelly, McGoldrick, Babb, Carey, Whelan, McAteer, O'Brien, Cascarino, D Kelly (Coyne 46), McLoughlin.
Russia: Kharin — Kuznetsov, Gorlukovich, Rakhimov, Kovtun, Tetradze, Korneyev (Chernishev 60), Popov, Salenko, Borodnik, Radchenko (Kosolapov 88).

Mar 23 = Valencia — friendly
SPAIN 0
CROATIA 2 (Prosinecki 6, Suker 52)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Vessiere (Fra)
Spain: Zubizarreta (Lopetegui 65) — Ferrer, Alkorta, Abelardo, Voro — Otero, Hierro (Guardiola 46), Goikoetxea (Beguristain 46), Nadal (Camarasa 46), Julio Salinas (Juanele 46), Higuera.
Croatia: Ladic — Stimac (Pavlicic 78), Andrijasevic (Vlaovic 88), Bilic, Jarni, Jerkan, Jankovic (Mornar 46; Mise 84), Prosinecki, Asanovic, Boksic, Suker.

Mar 23 = Recife — friendly
BRAZIL 2 (Bebeto 7, 76)
ARGENTINA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Wilson Souza (Bra)
Brazil: Zetti — Cafu, Ricardo Rocha, Ricardo Gomes (Mozer 46), Branco (Leonardo 46) — Dunga (Mazinho 65), Mauro Silva, Rai (Rivaldo 46), Zinho — Bebeto (Ronaldo 70), Muller.
Argentina: Goycochea — Hernan Diaz, Vazquez, Caceres, Chamot — Redondo, Simeone, Cagna (Monserrat 60), Leo Rodriguez (Ortega 66) — Claudio Garcia, Batistuta.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Mar 26 = Dallas — friendly
UNITED STATES 2 (Perez 31pen, 48)
BOLIVIA 2 (Balivieso 12, Pinedo 76)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 26,835. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
US: Meola — Balboa, Lalas, Armstrong, Agoos (Caligiuri 46), Burns, Dooley, Henderson, Jones, Perez (Michallik 81), Vermes (Reyna 46).
Bolivia: Trucco — Sandy, Rimba, Soruco, Cristaldo, Soria, Ramiro Castillo (Pinedo 72), Baldivieso, Chavez, Moreno (Cueto 76), Ramallo (Alvaro Pena 64).

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Quarter-finals — 1st leg
Mar 8 *(Montpellier):* FRANCE 2 (Llacer 23, Ouedec 82), RUSSIA 0.
Mar 9 *(Salerno):* ITALY 3 (Vieri 7, Panucci 10, Negro 79), CZECHOSLOVAKIA 0.
Mar 9 *(Szczecin):* POLAND 1 (Dabrowski 40), PORTUGAL 3 (Joao Vieira Pinto 70th, 79, Rui Costa 86).
Mar 9 *(Almeria):* SPAIN 0, GREECE 0.

Quarter-finals — 2nd leg
Mar 23 *(Ceske Budejovice):* CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1 (Svoboda 44pen), ITALY 0 *(Italy 3-1 on agg).*
Mar 24 *(Athens):* GREECE 2 (Georgatos 8pen, Prieto og 82), SPAIN 4 (Christiansen 44, 50, Guerrero 73, Galvez 80) *(Spain 4-2 on agg).*
Mar 24 *(Moscow):* RUSSIA 0, FRANCE 1 (Dugarry 30) *(France 3-0 on agg).*
Mar 24 *(Coimbra):* PORTUGAL 2 (Toni 50, Paulo Torres 89), POLAND 0 *(Portugal 5-1 on agg).*
❒ *Final tournament in France — Semi-finals: France v Italy, Spain v Portugal.*

OTHER MATCHES

Feb 23 *(Riyadh):* SAUDI ARABIA 0, RACING MECHELEN 1 (Molby 30pen).
Feb 28 *(Jeddah):* SAUDI ARABIA 3, VITESSE ARNHEM (Hol) 4.
Mar 8 *(Brentford):* ENGLAND U-21 1 (Sinclair 82), DENMARK U-21 0.
Mar 15 *(Bogota):* COLOMBIA 1 (Aristizabal), SAO PAULO FC 0.

EUROPEAN CUPS

EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Group A
(4th match day — March 16)

BARCELONA 5 (Stoichkov 34, Amor 75, Koeman 78, 80, Romario 86pen)
MOSCOW SPARTAK 1 (Karpin 3
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 78,400.
Barcelona: Zubizarreta — Ferrer, Koeman (Beguiristain 84), Nadal, Serg Guardiola, Ivan, Amor, Bakero (Goikoetxea 65), Stoichkov, Romario.
Spartak: Stauce — Khlestov, Nikiforo Ternaskhi, Ivanov, Karpin, Piatnitski, Onopko, Lediakhov (Rodionov 46), Tsymbalar, V Bestchastnik (Pisarev 72)

GALATASARAY 0
MONACO 2 (Scifo 54, Gnako 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe
Galatasaray: Hayrettin — Mert Korkmaz, Bulent Korkmaz, Yusuf, Gotz Tugay, Ugur, Hamza, Hakan, Suat, Ar
Monaco: Ettori — Valery, Blondeau, Thuram, Dumas, Puel, Klinsmann, Djorkaeff, Viaud, Scifo, Ikpeba.

(5th match day — March 30)

BARCELONA 3 (Amor 22, Koeman 71pen, Eusebio 77)
GALATASARAY 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Mottram (Sco
Barcelona: Zubizarreta — Ferrer, Nadal, Koeman, Sergi, Ivan, Quique Estebaranz (Goikoetxea 66), Amor, Laudrup, Romario, Beguiristain (Eusebio 57).
Galatasaray: Hayrettin — Mert Korkmaz (Arif 50), Bulent, Yusuf, Gotz Yugay, Ugur, Hamza, Hakan, Suat (Kubilay Turkyilmaz 80), Erdal.

MOSCOW SPARTAK 0
MONACO 0
Att: 40,000. **Ref:** Ceccarini (Ita)
Spartak: Stauche — Mamedov, Ternavski (Khlestov 76), Tsymbalar, Rodionov (Pisarev 64), Nikiforov, Onopko, Karpin, Piatnitski, Lediakhov, Beschastnikh.
Monaco: Ettori — Blondeau, Petit, Thuram, Dumas, Puel, Klinsmann, Djorkaeff (Weah 70), Viaud, Scifo (Perez 85), Grimandi.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BARCELONA	5	3	2	0	12	3	[illegible]
MONACO	5	3	1	1	9	3	[illegible]
Spartak Moscow	5	0	3	2	4	11	[illegible]
Galatasaray	5	0	2	3	0	8	[illegible]

❒ *Barcelona and Monaco qualify for the semi-finals*

Group B
(4th match day — March 16)

FC PORTO 2 (Drulovic 9, Secretario 90)
ANDERLECHT 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,000.
Porto: Vitor Baia — Joao Pinto, Rui Jorge, Aloisio, Jorge Costa, Andre, Secretario, Timofte (Folha 70), Domingos (Fernando Couto 85), Semedo, Drulovic
Anderlecht: De Wilde — Crasson, Nwanu, Rutjes, Emmers (Haagdoren 70) Walem, Versavel (Bosman 46), Suray, Nilis, Degryse, Boffin.

WERDER BREMEN 1 (Rufer 52pen)
MILAN 1 (Savicevic 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 31,000. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Bremen: Reck — Bratseth, Wiedener, Beiersdorfer, Votava, Basler, Neubarth, Legat, Bode (Unger 87), Rufer, Hobsch
Milan: Rossi — Tassotti, Maldini, Donadoni, Costacurta, Galli, Eranio (Simone 57), Desailly, Boban, Savicevic (Albertini 85), Massaro.

(5th match day — March 30)

MILAN 0
ANDERLECHT 0
Att: 65,000. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fra)
Milan: Rossi — Tassotti, Maldini, Albertini, Costacurta, Baresi, Donadoni Desailly, Raducioiu (Carbone 68), Laudrup (Simone 51), Massaro.
Anderlecht: De Wilde — Crasson, Nwanu, Suray, Emmers, Walem, Haagdoren, Bosman, Nilis, Degryse, Boffin.

WERDER BREMEN 0
FC PORTO 5 (Rui Filipe 11, Kostadinov 35, Secretario 70, Domingos 74, Timofte 90pen)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa)

Bremen: Reck — Wolter, Legat, Bratseth, Wiedener, Harttgen (Neubarth 46), Basler, Votava, Bode, Herzog, Rufer (Bockenfeld 78).
Porto: Vitor Baia — Joao Pinto, Rui Jorge, Jorge Costa, Fernando Couto, Andre, Secretario, Kostadinov (Domingos 71), Timofte, Paulinho Santos (Rui Filipe 9), Drulovic.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MILAN	5	2	3	0	6	2	7
FC PORTO	5	3	0	2	10	6	6
Anderlecht	5	1	2	2	4	7	4
Werder Bremen	5	1	1	3	9	14	3

□ Milan and FC Porto qualify for the semi-finals.

CUP-WINNERS CUP

Quarter-finals — 2nd leg
(March 16 unless stated)

ARSENAL 1 (Adams 66)
TORINO 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 34,678. *(Mar 15).* **Ref:** J Blankenstein (Hol)
Arsenal 1-0 on agg
Arsenal: Seaman — Dixon, Winterburn, Davis, Bould, Adams, Jensen (Keown 87), Wright, Smith, Merson, Hillier (Selley 14).
Torino: Galli — Annoni, Mussi, Cois, Gregucci*, Fusi, Sinigagila, Fortunato, Silenzi, Francescoli, Venturin (Jarni 25).
** Gregucci sent off, 88min.*

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 4 (Kirsten 24, 80, Schuster 58, Hapal 80)
BENFICA 4 (Xavier 59, Joao Vieira Pinto 60, Kulkov 78, 86)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,500. *(Mar 15).*
Benfica on away goals: agg 5-5

PARIS SAINT GERMAIN 1 (Ricardo 51)
REAL MADRID 1 (Butragueno 20)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. *(Mar 15).*
Paris SG 2-1 on agg

PARMA 2 (Minotti 15, Brolin 48)
AJAX AMSTERDAM 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000.
Parma 2-0 on agg

Semi-finals — 1st leg
(played March 29)

PARIS SAINT GERMAIN 1 (Ginola 50)
ARSENAL 1 (Wright 35)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Paris SG: Lama — Sassus, Ricardo, Colleter, Llacer (Bravo 46), Fournier, Le Guen, Guerin, Valdo, Weah, Ginola.
Arsenal: Seaman — Dixon, Adams, Bould, Winterburn, Wright, Selley, Jensen, Davis (Keown 84), Merson, Smith (Campbell 84).

BENFICA 2 (Isaias 7, Rui Costa 60)
PARMA 1 (Zola 13)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 70,000.

UEFA CUP

Quarter-finals — 2nd leg
(March 16 unless stated)

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Gaudino 21)
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 28,500. *(Mar 15).* **Ref:** Elleray (Eng)
Salzburg 5-4 on pens: 1-1 agg, aet

JUVENTUS 1 (Dino Baggio 23)
CAGLIARI 2 (Firicano 34, Oliveira 61)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 45,000. *(Mar 15).* **Ref:** Wojcick (Pol)
Cagliari 3-1 on agg

KARLSRUHE 1 (Santos og 35)
BOAVISTA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,000.
Karlsruhe 2-1 on agg

INTERNAZIONALE 1 (Manicone 81)
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Zorc 38, Zelic 46)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. *(Mar 17).*
Internazionale 4-3 on agg

Semi-finals — 1st leg

AUSTRIA SALZBURG 0
KARLSRUHE 0
Att: 30,000. *(Mar 29)*

CAGLIARI 3 (Oliveira 11, Criniti 81, Pancaro 86)
INTERNAZIONALE 2 (Fontolan 6, Sosa 61)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. *(Mar 30).*

SOUTH AMERICA

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

Group 1

March 2 — Asuncion (Paraguay)

OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (Avalos)
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 0
Ref: Jorge Nieves (Par). **HT:** 0-0.
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, Ramirez, Ayala, Suarez, Jara, Franco, Sotelo (Martinez), Avalos (Campos), Cardozo, Del Valle.
Cerro Porteno: Silva, Gamarra, Sanabria, Villamayor, Struway, Encisco (Perez), Arce, Jefferson, J. Ferreyra (Franco), V. Ferreyra, Yegros.
● Olimpia, showing more fitness, were slightly better. Cerro Porteno's Sanabria was sent off after 78 minutes.

March 4 — Barranquilla (Colombia)

ATLETICO JUNIOR (Col) 0
INDEPENDIENTE MEDELLIN (Col) 1 (Hernandez)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000.
At. Junior: Pazo, Briasco, Mendoza, Cassiani, A. Uribe, Mendez (Nieto), Grau, Araujo (J.Hernandez), Pacheco, Valenciano, Guerrero.
Independiente Medellin: Barbat, Estrada, Pino, Fernandez, Pimentel, Pareja, Perez, Diaz (Torres), Gomez, Juarez, R. Hernandez (C. Uribe).
● Junior fell away after going behind early in the second half and were only dangerous again near the end. The home team missed their injured international playmaker, Valderrama.

March 9 — Medellin (Colombia)

INDEPENDIENTE MEDELLIN (Col) 0
OLIMPIA (Par) 0
Att: 42,000. **Ref:** Alfredo Rodas (Ecu).
Independiente: Barbat, Estrada, Pino, Fernandez, Pareja, Pimentel, Perez, Diaz (Torres), Juarez, Hernandez, Castro (Gomez).
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, Avala, Ramirez, Suarez, Jafagein, Franco, Sotelo (Sanabria), Abalos (Campos), Del Valle, Cardozo.
● The Colombians were on the attack for most of the game with Olimpia goalkeeper Battaglia making some outstanding saves.

Group 2

Feb 13 — Buenos Aires (Argentina)

VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 1 (Flores)
BOCA JUNIORS (Arg) 1 (MacAllister)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Francisco Lamolina (Arg).
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Almandoz, Trotta, Sotomayor ,(Camps) Cardozo, J. Basualdo, Gomez, Bassedas (Flores), Rentera, Asad, Gonzalez.
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoja, Sonora, Noriega, Giuntini, MacAllister, Peralta, Mancuso, Marcico, Carranza, Martinez (Saldana), R. Da Silva (Acosta).
● Boca Juniors missed chances to win the game in the first half when midfielder Carranza stood out, but when Velez Sarsfield sent on an extra forward (Flores) early in the second half, they became more dangerous and deserved the 1-1 draw.

Mar 2 — Sao Paulo (Brazil)

PALMEIRAS (Bra) 2 (Edilson 2)
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0.
Palmeiras: Sergio, Claudio, Antonio Carlos, Cleber, Roberto Carlos, Cesar Sampaio, Mazinho, Zinho, Rincon, Edilson, Evair.
Cruzeiro: Dida, Paulo Roberto, Celio Lucio, Luizinho, Nonato, Ademir, Douglas, Macale, Cleisson, Ronaldo, Roberto Gaucho.
● Palmeiras controlled play for most of the first half by dominating midfield and cutting off Cruzeiro's counter-attacks. Cruzeiro pressed for the equaliser in the second half, but lost steam when Edilson scored his second goal 15 minutes from the end.

Mar 9 — Sao Paulo (Brazil)

PALMEIRAS (Bra) 6 (Cleber, Roberto Carlos, Edilson, Evair 2, Gian Carlo)
BOCA JUNIORS (Arg) 1 (Martinez pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,500. **Ref:** J. Escobar (Par).
Palmeiras: Sergio, Claudio, Antonio Carlos, Cleber, Roberto Carlos, Cesar Sampaio (Tonhao), Amaral, Mazinho (Gian Carlo), Zinho, Edilson, Evair.
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Sonora, Noriega, Giuntini, MacAllister, Peralta, Mancuso, Marcico, Carranza, Martinez, Da Silva (Acost).
● Although Boca Juniors insinuated attacking soccer at the start, Palmeiras soon had them in difficulty with faster, more intelligent play. The Brazilians did things more simply, had more men in attack and were more practical to win more easily than actual play seemed to justify.

Mar 9 — Belo Horizonte (Brazil)

CRUZEIRO (Bra) 1 (Ronaldo)
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 1 (Asad)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Oscar Velazquez (Par).
Cruzeiro: Dida, Paulo Roberto, Celio Lucio, Luisinho, Nonato, Douglas, Toninho Cerezo, Luis Fernando, Cleisson (Macale), Ronaldo, Roberto Gaucho.
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Arnandoz, Trotta, Sotomayor, Cardozo, Basualdo, Gomez, Compagnucci, Bassedas, Asad (Pellegrino), Flores (Galeano).
● Cruzeiro's 17-year-old star striker put his team ahead in the first minute, but overall Velez Sarsfield had the better of the exchanges and had chances to win.

Group 3

Mar 2 — Guayaquil (Ecuador)

EMELEC (Ecu) 0
BARCELONA (Ecu) 1 (Carcelen)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ivan Guerrero (Chi).
Emelec: Espinosa, Coronel, Hurtado, M. Tenorio, Capurro, Morales, Fajardo, Verduga (Fernandez), Pico, Edu, Almada.
Barcelona: Mendoza (Cavallos), Gomez, B. Tenorio, Montano, Alcivar, Carcelen, Carabali, Insua, Pizarro, Gavica, Alfaro Moreno.

Mar 2 — Lima (Peru)

UNIVERSITARIO (Peru) 0
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) 1 (Kopriva)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 44,600. **Ref:** Antonio Arnao (Peru).
Universitario: Zubczuk, Dulanto, Reynoso, Asteggiano (Ubilluz), Bravo, Munoz (Maldonado), Rodriguez, Nunez, Torrealba, Silva, Flores.
Alianza Lima: Wirth, Basombrio, Soto, Tanuccio, Guido, Jayo, Kopriva, M. Valencia (W. Valencia), Muchotrigo, De Luca, Saenz.
● In a close game in which Universitario were more in attack, Alianza gained their first win in three years over their town rivals in official competition.

Mar 8 — Guayaquil (Ecuador)

BARCELONA (Ecu) 0
UNIVERSITARIO (Peru) 0
Ref: Alvaro Arboleda (Ven)
Barcelona: Mendoza, Gomez, Montanero (Alcivar), Montano, Carcelen (Aviles), Carabali, Pizarro, Gavica, Insua, Alfaro Moreno, Delgado.
Universitario: Zubczuk, Bravo, Dulanto, Reynoso, Ubilluz, Rodriguez, Carranza, Nunes (Maldonado), Beltramo, Torrealva, Flores.
● Universitario not only successfully blocked Barcelona's attacks, but overcame the shortage of a player — Flores was sent off — for most of the second half.

Mar 11 — Guayaquil (Ecuador)

EMELEC (Ecu) 2 (Oste 2)
UNIVERSITARIO (Peru) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Nelson Rodriguez (Ven)
Emelec: Espinoza, Tenorio, Hurtado, Capurro, Fajardo, Morales, Pico, Edu, Fernandez, Oste (Verduga), Almada (Coronel).
Universitario: Zubczuk, Bravo, Dulanto, Reynoso, Ubilluz, Rodriguez, Carranza, Martinez, Nunes, Silva (Maldonado), Beltrano (Torrealva).
● Universitario played with their defensive set-up as in their 0-0 draw with Barcelona, but had to open up after Emelec's first goal early in the second half.

Group 4

Mar 2 — Montevideo (Uruguay)

DEFENSOR SPORTING (Uru) 1 (Dos Santos)
NACIONAL (Uru) 0
Att: 15,000. **HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** S. Feldman (Uru).
Defensor Sporting: Arbiza, Gonzalez, Saravia, Lasarte, Dos Santos, Ferreri, Silva Cantera, Marrero, Correa, De Lima (Chilelli), Alvez.
Nacional: Sere, Rosa (Badell), Canals, Revelez, Gastan, Pereira, Soua (Lemos), Larre, Parodi, Vidal Gonzalez, J. Gonzalez.
● Defensor Sporting, the underdogs, won with close marking and better team work.

Mar 2 — Santiago (Chile)

COLO COLO (Chi) 2 (Mella, Toninho)
UNION ESPANOL (Chi) 1 (Careno)
Att: 30,000. **HT:** 2-1. **Ref:** Eduardo Gambosa (Chi).
Colo Colo: Moron, R. Gonzalez, Vilches, Reyes, Margas, Ramirez, Contreras (Salvatierra), Fracchia, Mella, Yanez, Toninho (Mendoza).
Union Espanola: Rabajda, Galdames, Lucca, Figueroa, J. Gonzalez, Salas, Bernal (Sanchez), Perdomo, Sierra, Careno, Ruiz, (Montesinos).
● There were strong claims that Mella had handled the ball in scoring Colo Colo's opening goal — later confirmed — but overall Colo Colo deserved victory, although Espanola were on top in a disorganized second half.

Mar 8 — Santiago (Chile)

UNION ESPANOLA (Chi) 1 (Careno)
DEFENSOR SPORTING (Uru) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,600. **Ref:** Pedro Saucedo (Bol)
Union Espanola: Rabajda, Galdames, Lucca, Figueroa, J. Gonzalez, Salas, Perdomo, Careno (Rojas), Sierra, Morales (Montesinos), Ruiz.
Defensor Sporting: Arbiza, J. Gonzalez, Saravia, Lazarte, Dos Santos, Chilelly, Ferreri (De Souza), Marrero (Alvez), Silva, De Lima, Correa.
● Defensor Sporting defended with rough play in the first half, but fought back in the second half when a goal down. Their attacks lacked penetration however.

Group 5

Feb.23 — La Paz (Bolivia)

THE STRONGEST (Bol) 0
BOLIVAR (Bol) 0
Att: 23,000. **Ref:** Jorge Cuevas (Bol).
The Strongest: Ibarra, Arteaga, Quinteros, Sanchez, Francisquine, Borja, Aramayo, Melgar, Villarroel (Justiniano), Luna (De Jesus), Mir.
Bolivar: Aragon, Rimba, Sandy, Ferrufino, Cristaldo, Soria, Rios, Suarez (Castillo), Baldivieso, Antelo (Cueto), Salaberry.
● A close technically poor game favoured Bolivar in the first half when they missed a number of chances. The second half was more even, with close marking and The Strongest having a few more chances.

Feb 23 — Puerto Ordaz (Venezuela)

MINERVEN (Ven) 2 (J. Garcia, S Rivas)
MARITIMO (Ven) 1 (Lujambio)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000.

Mar 1 — Puerto Ordaz (Venezuela)

MINERVEN (Ven) 1 (Erramuspe)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 1 (Cueto)
HT: 1-0.
Minerven: Angelucci, Tortolero, MacIntosh, E. Garcia, Vera, Jaimes, Grueso, Errasuspe (Pacheco), S. Rivas, Da Silva (Balcucho), J. Garcia.
Bolivar: Aragon, Rimba, Sandy, Ferrufino, Soria, Salaverry, Antelo (Suarez), Baldivieso, Cristaldo, Rios, Castillo (Cueto).

Mar 4 — Caracas (Venezuela)
MARITIMO (Ven) 0
BOLIVAR (Bol) 2 (Cristaldo, Baldivieos)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Marcos Aguas (Ecu).
Maritimo: Nikolak, Rey, Jiminez, Marines, Rizzi (Romero), Donizeti, Retifo, San Vicente, Rodriguez, Matuszyks (Camacho), Lujambio.
Bolivar: Osorio, Rimba, Sandy, Salaverry (Suarez), Ferrfino (Cueto), Soria, Antelo, Baldivieso, Cristaldo, Rios, Castillo.

Mar 8 — Puerto Ordaz

MINERVEN (Ven) 5 (Rivas 3-1 pen, Da Silva, Garcia. J)
THE STRONGEST (Bol) 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Luis Seminario (Peru).
Minerven: Angelucci, Macintosh, Vera, Tortolero, E. Garcia, Grueso, Jaimes, Erramuspe, S. Rivas, J. Garcia, Da Silva.
The Strongest: Torrico, Arteaga, Sanchez, Quinteros, Borja, Francesquine, Aramayo, Luna, Melgar, Gareca, Villarroel.
● Maritimo surprised by controlling play from the start with fast short passing. The Strongest fought back in the second half, but were up against a tight defence which gave nothing away.

Mar 11 — Caracas (Venezuela)

MARITIMO (Ven) 1 (Lujambio)
THE STRONGEST (Bol) 1 (A. Garcia)
HT: 1-1.
Maritimo: Nikolak, Restifo, Marines, Rey (Camacho), Romero, Rizzi, Donizeti, Rodriguez (F. Romero), San Vicente, Lujambio, Matuszick.
The Strongest: Torrico, Sanchez, Roca, Francesquino, Aramayo, Melgar, Luna (Villarroel), Quintero, Justiniano (Gaspar), De Jesus, Garcia.
● The Strongest, much changed after their 5-0 defeat three days earlier, were pressed early on, but Maritimo fell back into defence after taking the lead in the 20th minute.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS
(including club tournaments)

Feb 8: River Plate (Arg) 3 Yokohama Marinos (Jap) 2.
Feb 11: Barcelona (Ecu) 2 America (Col) 1.
Feb 12: Sporting Cristal (Peru) 1 Cobreloa (Chi) 1, Estudiantes de La Plata (Arg) 2 Olimpia (Par) 0.
Feb 13: Gimnasia y Esgrima (Arg) 1 Yokohama Marinos (Jap) 2.
Feb 16: Rosario Central (Arg) 2 Yokohama Marinos (Jap) 1, Colo Colo (Chi) 2 Universitario (Peru) 0, Barcelona (Ecu) 1 Gimnasia y Tiro (Arg) 0 *(in Chile),* Nacional (Ecu) 1 Millonarios (Col) 3, Deportivo Quito (Ecu) 2 Independiente Medellin (Col) 3, Liga Dep. Universitaria Quito (Ecu) 2 Vitoria (Bra) 1.
Feb 17: Emelec (Ecu) 2 America (Col) 0.
Feb 18: Nacional (Ecu) 1 Independiente Medellin (Col) 1, Barcelona (Ecu) 3 Universitario (Peru) 2 *(in Chile).*
Feb 19: Liga Universitaria Quito (Ecu) 1 Indep. Medellin (Col) 1, Nacional (Ecu) 3 Vitoria (Bra) 3, Dep. Quito (Ecu) 1 Millonarios (Col) 4.
Feb 20: San Lorenzo (Arg) 2 Sao Paulo (Bra) 3.
Feb 21: Barcelona (Ecu) 3 Universitario (Peru) 2, Colo Colo (Chi) 0 Gimnasia y Tiro (Arg) 1.
Feb 22: Colo Colo (Chi) 2 Barcelona (Ecu) 2, Universitario (Peru) 4 Gimnasia y Tiro (Arg) 0 *(in Chile).*
Feb 26: Nacional (Uru) 2 Cerro Cora (Par) 3, Alianza Lima (Peru) 1 Everton (Chi) 0.
Mar 11: Nacional (Uruguay) 2 Huracan (Argentina) 1.

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Feb 16: San Martin de San Juan (Arg) 3 Russia Select 0.
Feb 17: Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 0 Russian Select 0.
Feb 19: Newell's Old Boys (Arg) 4 Russian Select 2.
Feb 27: UNAM 2 Bolivian Select 0.
Mar 1: Guadalajara (Mex) 1 Bolivian Select 1.

PANAMERICAN UNDER-23 CHAMPIONSHIP
(in Colombia)

Group A
Feb 4: Uruguay 2 Costa Rica 0, Venezuela 1 Argentina 1.
Feb 8: Argentina 1 Costa Rica 0, Uruguay 2 Venezuela 0.
Feb 10: Argentina 2 Uruguay 2, Venezuela 3 Costa Rica 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
URUGUAY	3	2	1	0	6	2	5
Argentina	3	1	2	0	4	3	4
Venezuela	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Costa Rica	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

Group B
Feb 5: Honduras 3 Chile 1, Brazil 1 Peru 0.
Feb 8: Chile 0 Brazil 0, Peru 2 Honduras 0.
Feb 12: Peru 2 Chile 2, Brazil 1 Honduras 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRAZIL	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
Honduras	3	1	1	1	4	4	3
Peru	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Chile	3	0	2	1	3	5	2

Group C
Feb 6: Colombia 3 Trinidad & Tobago 0, Ecuador 2 Antioquia (Col) 1.
Feb 9: Ecuador 1 Trinidad & Tobago 0, Colombia 4 Antioquia 0.
Feb 13: Colombia 3 Ecuador 1, Antioquia 3 Trinidad & Tobago 2.
(The Antioquia regional selection replaced El Salvador, who withdrew at last moment.)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
COLOMBIA	3	3	0	0	10	1	6
ECUADOR	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
Antioquia (Col)	3	1	0	2	3	8	2
Triniadad & Tob	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Group winners and best second (Ecuador won more games) qualified for semi-finals

Semi-finals
Feb 17: Colombia 4 Ecuador 0, Uruguay 2 Brazil 1.
Final
Feb 20: Colombia 3 Uruguay 2. **Att:** 45,000.

BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

A MIRAGE IN AMERICA'S SKY

THE MIRAGE of a national professional league still floats on the horizon of American soccer, rather as a rapid transit system has for decades floated on that of Los Angeles.

In demand . . . Americans want good soccer, as seen here during the US Cup '93.

Still, American soccer can comfort itself that, after January's horrific earthquake, LA is appreciably nearer to getting that system, and alleviating the fearful pollution and congestion of its so-called freeways.

Still and all, I cannot be optimistic about the way America's potential soccer league seems to be going.

Nor can my colleague Paul Gardner, who has just reissued his excellent, lucid book *The Simplest Game* (MacMillan) and shrewdly analyses the various problems. What worries Paul is that the colleges dominate American soccer, and the colleges by and large turn out just the kind of gung-ho player, all physique, stamina and straightforwardness, who would kill the new League stone dead as a spectator sport.

This, as Paul also is wont to point out, is exacerbated by the way the American coaching system has been left to the Bob Ganslers and Walt Chyzowychs of this world — coaches, once, of the US national team, brought up in something even worse than college soccer: the soccer of such as the German-American League.

Paul's bitter complaint, that this means coaching being left to the college authoritarian and his kind, to the exclusion of the more sophisticated Latins, has fallen on deaf ears until now. But the tide almost seems to be turning. Teofilo Cubillas, that marvellous Peruvian midfielder, has been rehabilitated.

Cubillas, once amazingly but significantly refused a coaching certificate by obscure nitwits of the American coaching system, has now been brought into the fold to help the national team, as has no less a personage than Holland's Rinus Michels.

Alas, the battle is not yet won. Gardner also tells the tale of a recent coaching course, its end product an absolutely vital certificate, presided over by one of those biff and bang birdbrains.

Birdbrain warbled on a long while about the properties of European football, when one eager pupil asked him why he had not talked about Brazil. The crude reply was that if Brazilian football interested him so much, he had better get down there to see it.

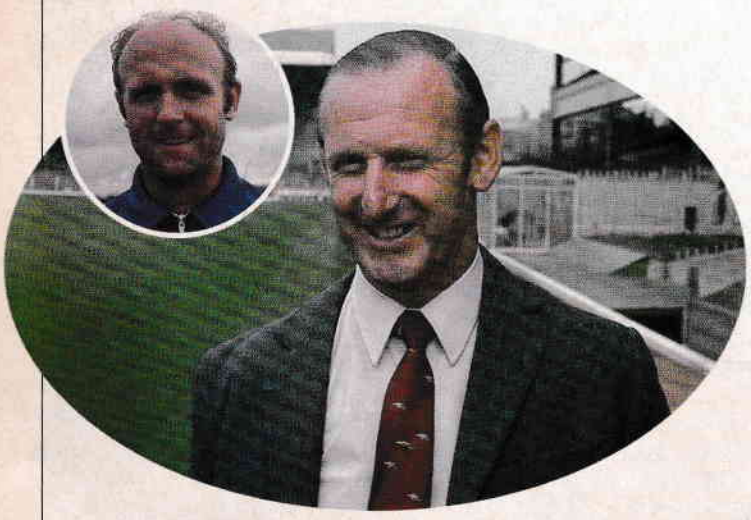
Alan Rothenberg, the Grand Panjandrum of American soccer, talks a great deal of sense; and just occasionally, some dangerous nonsense. Of course the hyperactive Sepp Blatter will encourage him like mad to use the new League for some of his daft experiments. But they won't help Rothenberg to get his League off the ground.

The idea of enlarging the goals, which was floating around after the 1990 World Cup, is pathetic, and in essence insulting to a far from unsophisticated American soccer public. As Paul says, encourage scoring by all means, but don't do anything as daft as to make it easier.

What the American public want is GOOD soccer, such as they were so abundantly given in the US Cup '93 tournament last summer, such as they should with any luck get in the coming World Cup, such as over 30,000 saw on a midweek afternoon in Miami last December, when Argentina got the best of Germany.

Can Rothenberg give them that kind of soccer? Alas, I am still convinced he cannot, so that if anything the coming World Cup will act as a deterrent rather than an encouragement to spectators.

Having seen the best, or what passes for the best, they won't want junk football. And what else will they be given?



In the manager's image

SPORTING managers and coaches of all kinds seemingly flocked to Arsenal Stadium to attend a course organised by a body known as the Institute of Team and Group Dynamics.

Laws were laid down with the authoritarian tone of FIFA. No. 1 was "The personnel and performance of a team will perfectly mirror the personality and competence of the manager."

Well, yes and no, my emphatic friends. Certainly, and depressingly, Arsenal's teams play in the managerial image, rather than the elegant playing image, of their manager, George Graham, which was perhaps why Highbury was chosen for the course.

In the 1960s, Helenio Herrera had Internazionale playing the dour counter-attacking game, with a negative sweeper, which he wanted them to. Brian Clough had profound influence over his Nottingham Forest teams.

But what would the four poor wretches who have tried and departed from Atletico Madrid this season, managerial victims of that ineffable bully Jesus Gil, have said to such a notion? Laughed with Homeric irony, I do not doubt. The interfering chairman or president has been commonplace for most of this century.

Come to that, what of the coach? Could Bertie Mee (right), as manager, have done the double with Arsenal in 1971 without the coaching and strategy of Don Howe (inset) to back up his administrative skills?

How much did Bobby Robson, in his Ipswich Town days, owe to the coaching of Cyril Lea?

Football is not so simple, whatever the Institute may think.

Suffering under a hard law

THE DANGERS and anomalies of the Professional Foul rule, as it stands, were shown up with awful clarity on a recent English Sunday.

That was the day on which Tranmere Rovers played at Aston Villa in the return semi-final of the League Cup, having won the first 3-1 at home.

Villa's talented young Australian goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich, brought down Tranmere's John Aldridge, when he seemed about to score.

That eccentric referee, Allan Gunn, duly decreed a penalty, from which Aldridge scored. But Gunn did not, as the FIFA rule demands, send Bosnich off. He did not even flourish a yellow card.

Bosnich stayed on the field and when the game went beyond extra time, to penalties, he saved no fewer than three of them. So Villa went through.

At Stamford Bridge, where the Chelsea v Spurs league game kicked off later, there was a rash of penalty kicks within the 90 minutes. The first given to Tottenham was duly put away by Andy Gray. But he failed with the second. Which, in the circumstances, was quite monstrous.

For the goalkeeper who saved the kick, Dimitri Kharine, had conceded it by bringing down Ronny Rosenthal, as he went in pursuit of the ball.

Kharine (below) should have been off. Referee John Lloyd kept him on.

Tranmere lodged a bitter protest with the Football League, who demanded an explanation from Gunn.

There is one, but I doubt if he would ever give it. Which is, I feel, that at a possible unconscious level, referees feel the law is a bad one, involving as it does double jeopardy in the penalty box, and they are therefore moved, at the moment of decision, to send the man off, as well as give the spot-kick.

Referees, of course, have no right thus to take the law into their own hands. It's a hard law, but it's the law. By not applying it, a referee plunges the game into chaos. The kind of chaos invited as soon as the law was formulated.

FIFA's response to that contentious English Sunday was to declare that it is for national associations to enforce the rule. Notionally so it is.

But I would be far happier to see national associations, not least the British, who still have half the votes on the rule-making International Board, fighting the law rather than applying it.

COMPETITION

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The winners will be the first 25 drawn from the hat after our closing date. All usual IPC Magazines rules apply.

QUESTION:
Three countries qualified for the 1994 World Cup finals undefeated. Name them.

A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of The Football Grounds of Great Britain and The Football Grounds of Europe

IBROX PARK

Capacity: 47,000 all-seated (but once held 118,567)
Opened: 1899 but completely redeveloped since 1978
Location: Take the Clockwork Orange (the subway train) to Copland Road, less than two miles west of Glasgow city centre and just south of the old Govan shipyards on the Clyde.

● Simply the best in Scotland, and until recently in Britain too. After two tragedies in 1902 and 1971, Glasgow Rangers took the momentous decision to rebuild Ibrox completely. Over £35 million has been spent on three new stands and an astronomically expensive additional third tier above the original South Stand (which was opened in 1929 and was also then the most lavish of its generation).

Rangers are Britain's wealthiest club, which explains why many fans scoffed at them for reducing Ibrox to such a small capacity. But who's laughing now? Rangers have 33,000 season ticket holders and a waiting list of 6,000. They bit the all-seater bullet before anyone else, invested in quality design, and have been fully vindicated by events.

The best bits are still the oldest — the original wood-pannelled boardroom, trophy room and dressing rooms — and although many visitors feel uneasy about the club's persistent Protestant bias, hellfire and damnation, what a place to watch footie! As the movie critics would say, Ibrox is a "Must See".

World Soccer rating: **9 (out of 10)**

ISTANBUL

❒ If the Turkish Tourist Board were writing the blurb for Istanbul's Inonu Stadium, it might read: "Nestling in the verdant slopes between Istanbul's luxury Hilton Hotel and the shimmering waters of the Bosphorous, lapped by shadows from the domes and minarets of the Sultan's last palace, the Italian-inspired Inonu Stadium resplendently watches over the gateway from Europe to Asia."

Actually it's a dusty old concrete hulk, holding 38,000 and now looking much less glamorous than when it was opened as the national stadium in 1947. But if the home team, **Besiktas** are on form, the sun is out, the kebabs are hot (well warmish), and you can hire something soft to sit on, this is a veritable Turkish delight. Warm, vibrant and just a little exotic.

World Soccer rating:
7 (out of 10)

ISRAEL

❒ Much improved since the removal of the track and the completion of a $19 million refurbishment programme since 1985, Tel Aviv's 45,000 capacity Ramat Gan Stadium is like a US college stadium by the beach — that is, a neat concrete bowl with a dusting of sand. There is a modern, two-tiered 15,000 seater Main Stand and two uncovered sides, while the north end is, rather unsatisfactorily, half-terraced but with a large gap behind the goal.

Other than the national team, **Maccabi Tel Aviv** have played at Ramat Gan since it opened in 1950, while rivals **Hapoel Tel Aviv** use the Bloomfield Stadium in Jaffa. Bloomfield used to be the main venue for internationals and many fans still prefer its greater intimacy, but with Ramat Gan now passed by UEFA and embarking on plans for a second new stand and a much needed pitch replacement, Ramat Gan is now Israel's leading venue. It also now houses the Israeli FA's new HQ and an international press centre.

World Soccer rating: **6 (out of 10)**

IZMIR

❒ For the Turkish national team the 67,500 capacity Ataturk Stadium in Izmir, on the Aegean coast, is considered to be luckier than the Inonu. But it was unlucky for an English fan who lost an eye after being hit by a missile during the Turkey v England game in March 1993 — an incident which resulted in the stadium suffering a six month ban from FIFA (and which served as an unfortunate prelude to the appalling treatment of Manchester United fans on their recent European Cup visit to Galatasaray).

Opened in 1971, like many modern Southern European bowls the Ataturk Stadium looks brilliant from afar, but is actually rudimentary close up and very poorly designed. The pitch is also miles from the seats.

World Soccer rating:
5 (out of 10)

ICELAND

❒ Clean air, stunning scenery, and a stark simplicity gives Iceland's basic but immaculate national stadium and sports complex, the Laugardalsvollur, a blustery but bracing quality. Opened in July 1957 it has a single main stand seating 3,600 — more than enough to cope with average gates of resident club **Fram** (or Knattspyrnufelagid Fram to give them their full title) — plus another 3,000 uncovered seats on the opposite side, giving a World Cup capacity of just 6,600, and 14,800 overall.

Close by is an indoor arena, outdoor swimming pool (cripes!), athletics stadium and the HQ of Iceland's Sports Federation. The valley of Laugardalur was where Reykjavík's women used to do their laundry in hot springs — appropriate since the stadium's name sounds like "lather-lather" when pronounced by locals. Visitors should not even try to pronounce it. Just enjoy the air.

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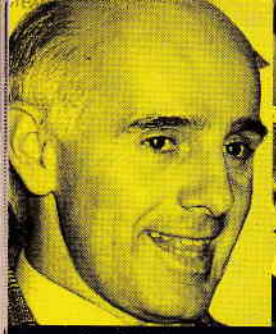
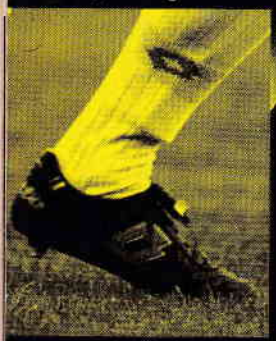

Sacchi, the big chief!

Pagliuca applauds.

Baiano screams.

Melli needs a wash.

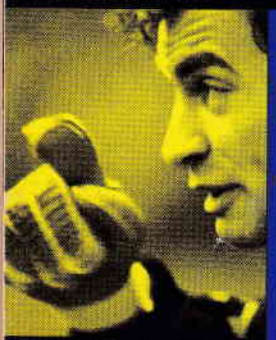
Gullit: the lion.

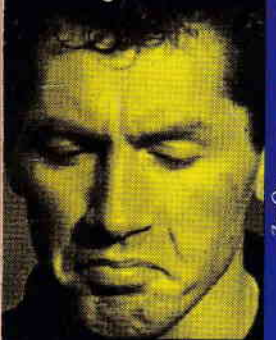

Albertini's boot.

Rossi: parries or blocks.

Lombardo's locks.

Close-up of Chapuisat.


Marchegiani advises.


Ferron indignant!

SOCCER IS LIFE.

ZanOn

Conte: proud profile.

Rossi astonished.

Ielpo's frown.

Who's behind the mask?

Savicevic's stare.

Whose boot?

Fuser out of breath.

Whose back?

Is it Gascoigne?

Albertini in action.

Mannini's spunk

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